

# THE LITERARY WORLD.

A Journal of American and Foreign Literature, Science, and Art.

WHOLE No. 79.  
VOL. III. No. 20.

NEW YORK, JUNE 17, 1848.

THREE DOLLARS  
PER ANNUM.

C. F. HOFFMAN, EDITOR.

OFFICE 157 BROADWAY.

OSGOOD & CO. PUBLISHERS.

A DAY IN THE GREAT DESERT BASIN OF CALIFORNIA, THE GREAT SALT PLAIN.

"WHAT I SAW IN CALIFORNIA," is the title of a new American work of authority on California, the Rocky Mountains, &c., now in press by the Appletons. The author is Edwin Bryant, Esq., late Alcalde of San Francisco. From a few sheets of MS. which have come under our eye, we select the following chapter giving an account of the Great Salt Basin, respecting which the writings of Fremont have excited so much curiosity. The account of the mirage in this chapter we hesitate not to say will be found of rare and extraordinary interest.

*March over the Great Salt Desert—Preparations—Singular Illusion—Volcanic Debris—Distant View of the Great Salt Plain—Utter Desolation—The Mirage—Gigantic Phantoms—Fata Morgana—Spectral Army—Tempest on the Salt Plain—Clouds of Salt—Instinct of Mules—Mule Race—Excessive Thirst—Arrival at Oasis and Spring—Buchanan's Well.*

August 3.

I ROSE from my bivouac, this morning, at half past one o'clock. The moon appearing like a ball of fire, and shining with a dim and baleful light, seemed struggling downwards through the thick bank of smoky vapor that overhung and curtained the high ridge of mountains to the west of us. This ridge, stretching far to the north and the south as the eye can reach, forms the western wall (if I may so call it) of the desert valley we had crossed yesterday, and is composed of rugged barrier peaks of basaltic rock, sometimes exhibiting misshapen outlines, at others towering upwards, and displaying a variety of architectural forms, representing domes, spires, and turreted fortifications.

Our encampment was on the slope of the mountain, and the valley lay spread out at our feet, illuminated sufficiently by the red glare of the moon, and the more pallid effulgence of the stars, to display imperfectly its broken and frightful barrenness, and its solemn desolation. No life, except in the little oasis occupied by our camp, and dampened by the sluggish spring, by excavating which with our hands, we had obtained impure water, sufficient to quench our own and our animals' thirst, existed as far as the eye could penetrate over mountains and plains. There was no voice of animal—no hum of insect, disturbing the tomb-like solemnity. All was silence and death. The atmosphere, chill and frosty, seemed to sympathize with this sepulchral stillness. No wailing or whispering sounds sighed through the chasms of the mountains, or over the gulfy and waterless ravines of the valley; no rustling zephyr swept over the scant dead grass, or disturbed the crumbling leaves of the gnarled and stunted cedars, which seemed to draw a precarious existence from the small patch of damp earth surrounding us. Like the other elements sustaining animal and vegetable life, the winds seemed stagnant and paralysed by the universal dearth around us. I contemplated this scene of dismal and oppressive soli-

tude, until the moon sank behind the mountains, and object after object became shrouded in its shadow.

Rousing Mr. Jacobs, who slept soundly, and after him the other members of our small party (nine in number), we commenced our preparations for the long and much dreaded march over the Great Salt Desert. Mr. Hudspeth, the gentleman who had kindly conducted us thus far from Fort Bridger, as our pilot, was to leave us at this point, for the purpose of exploring a route for the emigrant wagons further south. He was accompanied by three gentlemen, Messrs. Ferguson, Kirkwood, and Minter. Consequently, from this time forward, we are without a guide, or any reliable index to our destination, except our course westward, until we strike Mary's river, and the emigrant trail to California, which runs parallel with it, some two hundred miles distant. The drive across the Salt Plain, without water or grass, was variously estimated by those with whom I conversed at Fort Bridger, at from sixty to eighty miles. Capt. Walker, an old and experienced mountaineer, who had crossed it at this point, as the guide of Capt. Fremont and his party, estimated the distance at seventy-five miles, and we found his estimate to be correct.

We gathered the dead limbs of the cedars which had been cut down by Capt. Fremont's party, who encamped here last autumn, and igniting them, they gave us a good light during the preparation and discussion of our frugal breakfast, which consisted to-day of bread and coffee; bacon being interdicted in consequence of its incitement to thirst, a sensation which at this time we desired to avoid, as we felt uncertain how long it might be before we should be able to gratify the unpleasant cravings it produces.

Each individual of the party busied himself around the blazing fires, in making his various little, but important arrangements, until the first grey of the dawn manifested itself above the vapory bank overhanging the eastern ridge of mountains; when the word to saddle up being given, the mules were brought to the camp fires, and every arm and muscle of the party was actively employed in the business of saddling and packing "with care"—with unusual care—as a short detention during the day's march, to re-adjust the packs, might result in an encampment upon the desert for the coming night, and all its consequent dangers—the death or loss by straying in search of water and grass, of our mules (next to death to us), not taking into the account our own sufferings from thirst, which, for the next eighteen or twenty-four hours, we had made up our minds to endure with philosophical fortitude and resignation. A small powder keg, holding about three or four pints of coffee, which had been emptied of its original contents for the purpose, and filled with the beverage made from the brackish spring near our camp, was the only vessel we possessed, in which we could transport water, and its contents composed our entire liquid refreshment for the march. Instructions were given to Miller, who had charge of this important and

precious burden, to husband it with miserly care, and to make an equitable division, whenever it should be called into use.

Everything being ready, Mr. Hudspeth, who accompanied us to the summit of the mountain, led the way. We passed upwards through the *cañada* (pronounced Kanyeada) or mountain gorge, at the mouth of which we had encamped, and by a comparatively easy and smooth ascent, reached the summit of the mountain, after travelling about six miles. Most of us were shivering with cold, until the sun shone broadly upon us, after emerging by a steep acclivity from the gorge through which we had passed to the top of the ridge. Here we should have had a view of the mountain, at the foot of which our day's journey was to terminate, but for the close smoke, which hung over and filled the plain, shutting from the vision all distant objects.

Bidding farewell to Mr. Hudspeth, and the gentleman with him (Mr. Ferguson) we commenced the descent of the mountain. We had scarcely parted from Mr. H., when, standing on one of the peaks, he stretched out his long arms, and with a voice and gesture, as loud and impressive as he could make them, he called to us, and exclaimed—"Now, boys, put spurs to your mules, and ride like h—!" The hint was timely given, and well meant, but scarcely necessary, as we all had a pretty just appreciation of the trials and hardships before us.

The descent from the mountain on the western side, was more difficult than the ascent; but two or three miles by a winding and precipitous path, through some straggling, stunted, and tempest bowed cedars, brought us to the foot, and into the valley, where, after some search, we found a blind trail, which we supposed to be that of Capt. Fremont's, made last year. Our course for the day was nearly due west, and following this trail where it was visible, and did not deviate from our course, and putting our mules into a brisk gait, we crossed a valley some eight or ten miles in width, sparsely covered with wild sage (*artemisia*) and greenwood. These shrubs display themselves, and maintain a dying existence, a brownish verdure, on the most arid and sterile plains and mountains of the desert, where no other vegetation shows itself. After crossing the valley, we saw a ridge of low volcanic hills, thickly strewn with sharp fragments of basaltes, and a vitreous group resembling junk bottle glass. We passed over this ridge through a narrow gap, the walls of which are perpendicular, and composed of the same dark scoriaceous material as the debris strewn around. From the western terminus of this ominous looking passage, we had a view of the vast desert plain before us, which, as far as the eye could penetrate, was of a snowy whiteness, and resembled a scene of wintry, frosty, and icy desolation. Not a shrub or object of any kind rose above the surface for the eye to rest upon. The hiatus in the animal and vegetable kingdoms was perfect. It was a scene which excited mingled emotions of admiration and apprehension.

Passing a little further on, we stood on the brow of a steep precipice, the descent from the ridge of hills, immediately below and beyond which, a narrow valley or depression in the surface of the plain, about five miles in width, displayed so perfectly the wavy and frothy appearance of highly agitated water, that Col. Russell and myself, who were riding together some distance in advance, both simultaneously exclaimed—"We must have taken a wrong course, and struck another arm or bay of the Great Salt Lake." With deep concern we were looking around, surveying the face of the country, to ascertain what remedy there might be for this formidable obstruction to our progress, when the remainder of our party came up. The difficulty was presented to them, but soon, upon a more calm and scrutinizing inspection, we discovered that what represented so perfectly the "rushing waters," was moveless and made no sound. The illusion soon became manifest to all of us, and a hearty laugh at those who were the first to be deceived was the consequence, denying to them the merit of being good pilots or pioneers.

Descending the precipitous elevation upon which we stood, we entered upon the hard smooth plain we had just been surveying with so much doubt and interest, composed of bluish clay, and crusted in wavy lines with a white saline substance, the first representing the body of the water, and the last the crests and froth of the mimic waves and surges. Beyond this, we crossed what appeared to have been the beds of several small lakes, the waters of which have evaporated, thickly encrusted with salt, and separated from each other by small mound-shaped elevations of white sandy or ashy earth, so imponderous that it has been driven by the action of the winds into these heaps, which are constantly changing their positions and their shapes. Our mules waded through these ashy undulations, sometimes sinking to their knees, at others to their bellies, creating a dust that rose above, and hung over us like a dense fog.

From this point, on our right and left diagonally in front, at an apparent distance of thirty or forty miles, high isolated mountains rise abruptly from the surface of the plain. Those on our left were as white as the snow-lined face of the desert, and may be of the same composition, but I am inclined to the belief that they are composed of white clay, or clay and sand intermingled.

The mirage, a beautiful phenomenon I have frequently mentioned as exhibiting itself upon our journey, here displayed its wonderful illusions, in a perfection, and with a magnificence surpassing any presentation of the kind I had previously seen. Lakes dotted with islands, and bordered by groves of gently waving timber, whose tranquil and limpid waves reflected their sloping banks, and the shady inlets in their bosoms, were spread out before us, inviting us, by their illusory temptations, to stray from our path, and enjoy their cooling shades and refreshing waters. There, fading away as we advanced, beautiful villas, decorated with all the ornaments of suburban architecture, and surrounded by gardens, shaded parks, and stately avenues, renewed the alluring invitation to repose, by enticing the vision with more than Calypsonian enjoyments, or Elysian pleasures. These melting from our view, as those before, in another place, a vast city, with countless columned edifices of marble whiteness, and studded with domes, spires, and turreted towers, would rise upon the horizon of the plain, astonishing us with its stupendous grandeur, and sublime magnificence. But it is in vain to attempt a description of

these singular and extraordinary phenomena. Neither prose or poetry, nor the pencil of the artist, can adequately portray their beauties. The whole distant view around, at this point, seemed like the creations of a sublime and gorgeous dream, or the effect of enchantment. I observed that where these appearances were presented in their most varied forms, and with the most vivid distinctness, the surface of the plain was broken, either by chasms hollowed out from the action of the winds, or by undulations formed of the drifting sands.

About eleven o'clock we struck upon a vast white plain, uniformly level, and utterly destitute of vegetation, or any sign that shrub or plant had ever existed above its snow-like surface. Pausing a few moments to rest our mules, and moisten our mouths and throats, from the short supply of beverage in our powder keg, we entered upon this appalling field of sullen and hoary desolation. It was a scene so entirely new to us, so frightfully forbidding and unearthly in its aspect, that all of us, I believe, though impressed with its sublimity, felt a slight shudder of apprehension. Our mules seemed to sympathize with us in the pervading sentiment, and moved with reluctance, several of them stubbornly setting their faces for a counter march.

For fifteen miles the surface of this plain is so compact that the feet of our animals, as we hurried them along over it, left little, if any impression, for the guidance of the future traveller. It is covered with a hard crust of saline and alkaline substances combined, from one fourth to one half of an inch in thickness, beneath which is a stratum of damp whitish sand and clay, intermingled. Small fragments of white shelly rock, of an inch and a half in thickness, which appear as if they once composed a crust, but had been broken by the action of the atmosphere, or the pressure of water rising from beneath, are strewn over the entire plain, and embedded in the salt and sand.

As we moved onward, a member of our party, in the rear, called our attention to a gigantic moving object on our left, at an apparent distance of six or eight miles. It is very difficult to determine distances accurately on these arid plains. Your estimate is based upon the probable dimensions of the object, and unless you know what the object is, and its probable size, you are liable to great deception. The atmosphere seems frequently to act as a magnifier; so much so, that I have often seen a raven perched upon a low shrub, or an undulation of the plain, answering to the outlines of a man on horseback. But this object was so enormously large, considering its apparent distance, and its movement forward parallel with ours so distinct, that it greatly excited our wonder and curiosity. Many and various were the conjectures (serious and facetious) of the party, as to what it might be or portend. Some thought it might be Mr. Hudspeth, who had concluded to follow us; others, that it was some cyclopean nondescript animal lost upon the desert; others that it was the ghost of a mammoth or megatherium, wandering in "this rendezvous of death;" others, that it was the d—l mounted on an ibis, &c. &c. It was the general conclusion, however, that no animal composed of flesh and blood, or even a healthy ghost, could here inhabit. A partner of equal size soon joined it, and for an hour or more they moved along as before, parallel to us, when they disappeared, apparently behind the horizon.

As we proceeded, the plain gradually became softer, and our mules sometimes sank to their knees in the stiff composition of salt, sand, and clay. The travelling at length became so

difficult and fatiguing to our animals, that several of the party dismounted (myself among the number), and we consequently slackened our hitherto brisk pace into a walk. About two o'clock, p. m., we discovered through the smoky vapor the dim outlines of the mountains in front of us, at the foot of which was to terminate our day's march, if we were so fortunate as to reach it. But still we were a long and weary distance from it, and from the "grass and water" which we expected there to find. A cloud rose from the south soon afterwards, accompanied by several distant peals of thunder, and a furious wind, rushing across the plain, and filling the whole atmosphere around us, with the fine particles of salt, and drifting it in heaps like the newly fallen snow. Our eyes became blinded, and our throats choked with the saline matter, and the very air we breathed tasted of salt.

During the subsidence of this tempest, there appeared upon the plain one of the most extraordinary phenomena, I dare to assert, ever witnessed. As I have before stated, I had dismounted from my mule, and turning it in with the *caballada*, was walking several rods in front of the party, in order to lead in a direct course to the point of our destination. Diagonally in front, to the right, our course being west, there appeared the figures of a number of men and horses, some fifteen or twenty. Some of these figures were mounted and others dismounted, and appeared to be marching in front. Their faces, and the heads of the horses, were turned towards us, and at first they appeared as if they were rushing down upon us. Their apparent distance, judging from the horizon, was from three to five miles. But their size was not correspondent, for they appeared nearly as long as our own bodies, and consequently were of gigantic stature.

At the first view I supposed them to be a small party of Indians (probably the Utahs), marching from the opposite side of the plain. But this seemed to me scarcely probable, as no hunting or war party would be likely to take this route. I called to some of our party nearest to me, to hasten forward, as these men were in front, coming towards us. Very soon the fifteen or twenty figures were multiplied into three or four hundred, and appeared to be rushing forward with the greatest action and speed. I then conjectured that they might be Capt. Fremont and his party, with others from California, returning to the United States by this route, although they seemed to be too numerous even for this. I spoke to Brown, who was nearest to me, and asked him if he noticed the figures of men and horses in front. He answered that he did, and that he had observed the same appearances several times previously, but that they had disappeared, and he believed them to be optical illusions, similar to the mirage. It was then for the first time, so perfect was the perfection, that I conjectured the probable fact, that these figures were the reflection of our own images by the atmosphere, filled as it was with fine particles of crystallized matter, or by the distant horizon, covered with the same substance. This induced a more minute observation of the phenomenon, in order to detect the deception, if such it were. I noticed a single figure, apparently on foot in advance of all the others, and was struck with its likeness to myself. Its motions, too, I thought, were the same as mine. To test the hypothesis above suggested, I wheeled suddenly around, at the same time stretching my arms, and to their full length, and turning my face sideways to notice the movements of the figure. It went through



precisely the same motions. I then marched deliberately, and with long strides, several paces. The figure did the same. To test it more thoroughly I repeated the experiment, and with the same result. The fact then was clear; but it was more fully verified still, for the whole array of this numerous shadowy host, in the course of an hour, melted entirely away, and was no more seen. The phenomenon, however, explained and gave the history of the gigantic spectres which appeared and disappeared so mysteriously, at an earlier hour of the day. The figures were our own shadows, produced and reproduced by the mirror-like composition impregnating the atmosphere, and covering the plain. I cannot, here, more particularly explain or refer to the subject. But this spectral population, springing out of the ground, as it were, and arraying itself before us, as we traversed this dreary and heaven-condemned waste, although we were entirely convinced of the cause of the apparition, excited those superstitious emotions so natural to all mankind.

About five o'clock, p. m., we reached and passed, leaving it to our left, a small *butte*, rising solitary from the plain. Around this the ground is uneven, and a few scattering sage shrubs, leafless and without verdure, raised themselves above the white sand and saline matter, which seemed recently to have been drifted, so as nearly to conceal them. Eight miles brought us to the northern end of a short range of mountains, turning the point of which, and bending our course to the left, we gradually came upon higher ground, composed of compact volcanic ground. I was here considerably in the rear, having made a detour towards the base of the *butte*, and thence towards the centre of the short range of mountains to discover, if such existed, a spring of water. I saw no such joyful presentation, nor any of the usual indications, and when I reached and turned the point, the whole party were several miles ahead of me, and out of sight. Congratulating myself that I stood once more on terra firma, I urged my tired mule forward with all the life and activity that spur and whip could inspire her with, passing down the range of mountains on my left, some four or five miles, and then rising some rocky hills connecting this with a long and high range of mountains on my right. The distance across these hills is about seven or eight miles. When I had reached the most elevated point of this ridge, the sun was setting, and I saw my fellow travellers still far in advance of me, entering again upon a plain or valley of salt, some ten or twelve miles in breadth. On the opposite side of this valley rose abruptly, and to a high elevation, another mountain, at the foot of which we expected to find the spring of fresh water that was to quench our thirst, and revive and sustain the drooping energies of our faithful beasts.

About midway upwards, in a *cañada* of this mountain, I noticed the smoke of a fire, which apparently had just been kindled by Indians, who were then there, and had discovered our party on the white plain below; it being the custom of these Indians to make signals by fire and smoke, whenever they notice strange objects. Proceeding onwards, I overtook an old and favorite pack-mule, which we familiarly called "Old Jenny." She carried our meal and flour—all that we possessed, in fact, as a sustenance of life. Her pack had turned, and her burden, instead of being on her back, was suspended under her belly. With that good sense and discretion, so characteristic of the Mexican pack-mule, being behind, and following the party in

advance, she had stopped short in the road, until some one should come to re-arrange her cargo, and place it on deck instead of under the keel. I dismounted, and went through by myself, the rather tedious and laborious process of unpacking and repacking. This done, "Old Jenny" set forward on a fast gallop to overtake her companions ahead, and my own mule, as if not to be outdone in the race, followed at the same gait. "Old Jenny," however, maintained the honor of the race, keeping considerably ahead. Both of them, by that instinct or faculty which mules undoubtedly possess, had scented the water on the other side of the valley, and their pangs of extreme thirst urged them forward at this extraordinary speed, after the long and laborious march they had made to obtain it.

As I advanced over the plain—which was covered with a thicker crust of salt than that previously described, breaking under the feet of the animals like a crust of frozen snow—the spreading of the fires in the *cañada* of the mountains appeared with great distinctness. The line of lights was regular, like camp fires, and I was more than half-inclined to hope that we should meet and be welcomed by an encampment of civilized men,—either hunters, or a party from the Pacific bound homewards. The moon rose about 9 o'clock, displaying and illuminating the unnatural, unearthly dreariness of the scenery.

"Old Jenny" for some time had so far beaten me in the race, as to be out of my sight and I out of the sound of her footsteps. I was entirely alone, and enjoying as well as a man could, with a crust of salt in his nostrils and over his lips, and a husky mouth and throat, the singularity of my situation, when I observed, about a quarter of a mile ahead of me, a dark, stationary object—standing in the midst of the hoary scenery. I supposed it to be "Old Jenny" in trouble once more, about her pack. But coming up to speaking distance, I was challenged in a loud voice with the usual guard salutation, "Who comes there?" Having no countersign, I gave the common response in such cases, "A friend." This appeared to be satisfactory, for I heard no report of pistol or rifle, and no arrow took its soundless flight through my body. I rode up to the object, and discovered it to be Buchanan sitting upon his mule, which had become so fatigued that it occasionally refused to go along, notwithstanding his industrious application of the usual incentives to progress. He said that he had supposed himself to be the "last man," before "Old Jenny" passed, who had given him a surprise, and he was quite thunderstruck when an animal mounted by a man came charging upon him in his half-crippled condition. After a good laugh and some little delay and difficulty, we got his mule under weigh again, and rode slowly along together.

We left, to us in our tired condition, the seemingly interminable plain of salt, and entered upon the saggy slope of the mountain about 10 o'clock. Hallooing as loudly as we could raise our voices, we obtained by a response the direction of our party who had preceded us, and after some difficulty in making our way through the sage, grass, and willows (the last a certain indication of water in the desert), we came up to where they had discovered a faint stream of water, and made their camp. Men and mules, on their first arrival, as we learned, had madly rushed into the stream, and drank together of its muddy waters,—made muddy by their own disturbance of its shallow channel and sluggish current.

Delay of gratification frequently gives a

temporary relief to the cravings of hunger. The same remark is applicable to thirst. Some hours previously I had felt the pangs of thirst with an acuteness almost amounting to an agony. Now, when I had reached the spot where I could gratify my desires in this respect, they were greatly diminished. My first care was to unsaddle my mule and lead it to the stream, and my next to take a survey of the position of our encampment. I then procured a cup of muddy water, and drank it off with a good relish. The fires before noticed were still blazing brightly above us on the mountain, but those who had lighted them had given no other signal of their proximity. The moon shone brilliantly, and Jacob, Buchanan, McClery, and myself, concluded we would trace the small stream of water until we could find the fountain spring. After considerable search among the reeds, willows, and luxuriant grass, we discovered a spring. Buchanan was so eager to obtain a draught of cold, pure water, that, in dipping his cup for this purpose, the yielding weeds under him gave way, and he sank into the basin, from which he was drawn out, after a good ducking, by one of those present. The next morning this basin was sounded to the depth of thirty-five feet, and no bottom found. We named this spring "Buchanan's Well." We lighted no fires to-night, and prepared no evening meal. Worn down by the hard day's travel, after relieving our thirst, we spread our blankets upon the ground, and laying our bodies upon them, slept soundly in the bright moonshine.

Several of our party had been on the road upwards of seventeen hours without water or refreshment of any kind, except a small draught of cold coffee from our powder keg, made of the salt-sulphur water at our last encampment, and travelled the distance of seventy-five miles. The salt plain has at this place, so far as I could understand, been crossed but twice previously by civilized man, and in these instances two days were occupied in performing the journey. Distance travelled, seventy-five miles.

### Reviews.

*The Life of Oliver Cromwell.* By J. T. Headley, Author of "Napoleon and his Marshals," "The Sacred Mountains," "Washington and his Generals," &c., &c. New York: Baker & Scribner. 1848.

OLIVER CROMWELL was a great, an able, an extraordinary man; perhaps the greatest, the ablest, and the most extraordinary, who ever raised himself from obscurity to a throne. More has been written concerning him, both for and against, and on both sides, it is probable, more recklessly, than concerning any other man.

That the Royalists and Cavaliers of his own day should assail him bitterly, and with all imaginable terms of reproach, is perfectly natural and comprehensible—the doctrines of the divine right of kings, and of passive obedience, were then undoubted doctrines; all resistance to the royal will, even in words, was rank treason; and the success which rendered that resistance in the end paramount to all law and all authority, was of course yet more odious than the very treason. It must be remembered that the ill-advised, ill-fated king of England, did not, at any time, set up any claim to prerogative greater than the prerogative claimed and exercised by his immediate predecessors, James the First and Elizabeth.

His attempts at oppression, on the contrary, were infinitely less despotical, infinitely less illegal, infinitely less cruel, than those of either the great manly-minded queen, or the miserable coward, pedant, sensualist, and beast, who succeeded her.

The tyrannies of these were, however, in the main directed against individuals, and those individuals of the aristocracy, whose power was still the great obstacle to tyranny, and to the absolute sway of the monarch, rather than against the masses of the people.

He was not, then, a subverter of a constitution or a violator of charters, for neither constitution nor charters then existed—at least no constitution approaching to that of England, in after days, as set forth by the Bill of Rights, the Habeas Corpus act, the act of the Protestant Succession, and other yet more recent enactments for the protection of the life, the liberty, and the property of the subject.

It is not, therefore, for an attempt to subvert, but for an unwillingness to reform, existing institutions, that the man who has been absurdly called the royal martyr, is to be judged, and will, by a vast majority of mankind, be nowadays condemned.

His undue, unjust, and impolitic resistance to the legitimate and reasonable demands of his people cost him his throne and his head; plunged England first into war, then into anarchy; and lastly delivered her over bound hand and foot, into the hands of the sternest military despotism that had been seen in England, since the days of the Norman conquest.

This was the first offence of that ill-fated king. His second was a much deeper fault, nay, it was a crime; a black blot on his character, from which nothing can now redeem his memory, although it may be somewhat palliated by the consideration of the infamous and atrocious school in which he had been educated—the school of *kingcraft*, which, doubtless, was the primary cause of all his insincerity and falsehood, exhibited no less to his most devoted friends than to his sternest foes.

In regard to this point it must, we are of opinion, be admitted, that both in simulation and dissimulation, the King of England far exceeded the psalm-singing Independent.

These considerations will easily lead our readers to perceive, however, wherefore to the royalist writers Cromwell must naturally and necessarily have appeared in no other light than that of a fanatical, traitorous, and blood-thirsty innovator.

From the Presbyterians and the Scotch, he very naturally met no better or more lenient treatment; for, when they had won their way to the supreme command, and from having, in the first instance, struggled nobly in behalf of the liberties of England had come to trample upon them more oppressively than ever the king or his cavaliers had done, their own *servant* rose against them, and beat them at their own weapons. To the Presbyterians and the Scotch, therefore, Oliver was, as to the royalists, a *traitor*; and in this, with more show of reason for the charge, that he had in the first place voluntarily acted as their servant and supporter, which to the king or the court he had never done.

Lastly to the Puritans, the fifth monarchy men, the levellers, and the exceeding small company of true, sincere Republicans, who alone, probably, of the popular party acted on anything like a conviction of right, or a consciousness of disinterested motives, he was regarded once more in the light of a bloody

and persecuting tyrant, because he checked their then, at least, impracticable dreams with a hand of iron, and a will indomitable and immutable.

By Royalists, by Presbyterians, Parliamentarians, pure Republicans, and by all visionaries, ultra fanatics, and radicals, he has been denounced almost simultaneously and unanimously a traitor, a tyrant, and a villain.

Of late days a new school of transcendental Puritans, and of what we must consider strangely blinded devotees of liberty, have arisen; the former of whom adhere and uphold him as a stern worker, and staunch doer of everything except what they call "flunkeyism" and "dancing of minuets;" the latter, as the fighter of the battles of the people, and the apostle of liberty. Of the former of these classes Mr. Carlyle is the type; of the second, Mr. Headley is the most recent exponent.

Both, we confess, are somewhat incomprehensible to us; but of the two Mr. Headley is by far the most so. We know no such type of *freedom*!

The whole of Mr. Carlyle's constant and energetic indignation is called forth and lavished upon everything that savors of weakness, of irresolution, of admiration for the past, or of respect for ancient institutions; all of which he classes as Flunkeyism, Dilettantism, Formula following, and cant.

To be able to state of a person that he was a strong, earnest *doer* of anything good or evil, is enough for Mr. Carlyle; and the same man is naturally the defender of Robespierre, the apologist for the reign of terror, and the palliator of Cromwell's indefensible cruelties at Drogheda, Wexford, Limerick, and Clonmel; all of which he not only lauds to the skies, as wise and energetic measures, good against the effusion of blood and the like; but ridicules, with his exulting and inhuman mirth, all who will not look upon red-handed massacres and kennels running blood, as the very reverse of "minuet dancing;" and, deeds worthy of hero worship, as being "shrieking blockheads," "rose-water surgeons," "Jabez Windbags," and such other terms, in which he perceives the total absence, while we perceive the very perfection and monstrosity of "cant and jargon!"

Mr. Headley, on the other hand, assures us not once, but many times, in his work, that he looks upon Cromwell, Washington, and Bonaparte, as three great upholders and exponents of one great cause. "To me," he says in his preface, "the great question of freedom, which was battled out under Cromwell, afterwards under Washington, and then under Bonaparte, and which is now shaking Europe to its centre, is the question of the age."

Again, on page 41.—"The inherent right to command—that secret power over others acknowledged in such men as Washington and Bonaparte, were unconsciously recognised by the House, and it listened to him, it scarce knew why, with the deepest attention."

Now, from all this we must most earnestly and strenuously dissent. In no way can we consent, even for a moment, to see such men as Cromwell and Bonaparte being set in comparison with Washington, or the wars in which they, especially the latter, were engaged, being spoken of, as, in any possible respect, coinciding with that holy struggle, in which our great statesman and leader won to himself the renown of the world and the admiration of his strongest opponents, as the purest and most patriotic of men.

They both chose the dazzle of martial glory, the grandeur of a throne, the foreign aggrandizement of the countries in which they

rose to supreme command by means the most unscrupulous, illegal, and despotical, rather than the pure form of patriotism, the retirement of the Sabine farm, the establishment of the civil and religious liberties of their people, and the happiness of the masses over which they obtained absolute empire.

They both, in some sort, conquered liberty; but when conquered, they both brought it into odium; both smothered it under a bastard royalty, born out of the abuses of a nation's valor; both rendered it doubtful in its own eyes, and apparently impracticable. Had it not been for Oliver Cromwell, there had been no debauchery of Charles the Second, no bigotry of James the Second, tolerated for an hour in England. Had it not been for Bonaparte, there had been seen in France no glutony of the Eighteenth Louis, no priestcraft of the Tenth Charles, no broker-craft of the King of the French.

Men of the people both, they were both the betrayers of the people—children of Revolution both, they built up despotisms on the wreck of monarchies—apostles of liberty, they quenched the last spark of her sacred fires; and left behind them, in both instances, exhaustion, and desolation, and despair of the very principles and cause of liberty. The one set back in the seventeenth, as the other in the nineteenth century, the progress of events, the growth of national freedom, the principles of religious toleration, and the advance of popular ideas, for nearly half an age.

For thirty years or better, after the death of Cromwell, civil and religious liberty, and the love of them, were retrograde in England.

For thirty years or better, after the fall of Bonaparte, political and social freedom, and the love of them, lost ground in France.

Out of over excitement they both wrought popular exhaustion and political despair; out of their treason to liberty they wrought the doubt of its probability, among its truest friends. *Solitudinem fecere, pacem vocaverunt!*

They both led, both aggrandized, both outwitted, both defeated their own parties; and both made themselves kings *de facto*. They both might have been the Fathers of their respective countries, their liberators, benefactors, Saviors! They both preferred to be their despots and enslavers.

Neither, it is probable, at first contemplated the fulness of his own treason, the depth of his own dereliction!

But both set on foot motives and machinery which they were incapable of controlling; and both were swept away by the march of events and tide of circumstances which their own selfish egotism had unconsciously created, till they were compelled to clutch the pinnacle, in order to avoid the abyss!

They were both great, they were both guilty, they have both been judged!

But neither their guilt nor their condemnation is equal nor alike. Bonaparte's seizure of the imperial purple was a mere act of selfish aggrandizement, utterly uncalculated for by any requisition of the nation's weal, and giving rise, as its immediate consequence, to an armed crusade of all nations against France.

Cromwell's assumption of the protectorial chair was palliated, if not called for, by the imminence of anarchy. Bonaparte, after draining his country of her dearest blood to glut his own reckless ambition and mad lust of military glory, left her a victim under the foot of the Tartar, the Hun, and the Cossack. Cromwell, after he had seized the reins of



power wrongfully, wielded them well and so wisely, that he left England abroad, at least, greater than she had ever been before, and more respected by the powers of Europe than under her lion-queen Elizabeth.

But he has not a single claim to be called a patriot; nor, if we excuse him of the charge of direct hypocrisy, can we acquit him of adapting holy words to unholy uses. In the end he was, perhaps, we think almost certainly, a deceiver of himself. In the beginning, the fanaticism which he instilled into the souls of his psalm-singing yeomanry, as a counterpoise to the loyalty and chivalry of his cavaliers, was as distinctly and confessedly a war-weapon as the broad-swords of the Ironsides. Our limits will not permit us at this moment, to analyse, as we proposed to do, Mr. Headley's view of the character of this man, as illustrated by his separate and successive deeds, much less to go into his defence of the several steps and motives of his career. The subject is, however, of such importance, that we consider it amply worthy of a more extended notice; and we shall look further and more closely, at a very early period, into both the narration of facts, and statement of opinion, made by Mr. Headley; confessing ourselves in the first instance, not a little disposed to the iconoclasm of this—in our opinion—false idol of puritanic liberty, which is set up of late by its adorers, as the sole type of honesty, and strength, and freedom, when we believe the second quality alone to be the real attribute of its colossal greatness.

### Home Correspondence.

#### METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS.

To the Editor of the Literary World:

I WOULD that not only William B. Astor, Stephen Whitney, the heirs of the late Peter G. Stuyvesant (of blessed memory), and others who own real estate in this city, but likewise all common council men and others in authority, were endued with more taste, with a higher regard to the general interest, and a juster sense of the things that are for their own good: then should it be said in after times that the beneficence of the Creator (who in things natural has done more for us than for any other city), had been seconded by the pious wisdom of the creature, and Manahatta should be pointed to as in all things the metropolis of the world. Why not? If the very stones in the streets of London or Paris or Vienna or St. Petersburg were turned to pure gold, they would not buy for those cities advantages that should be compared with those already possessed by our beautiful island: a giant mosaic, set in emerald, studding the bosom of Nature.

I wrote of "pious wisdom." Whatever may be said by my excellent neighbor, the minister of the dingy looking red brick meeting-house round the corner, it is just as much a work of piety to create any work of beauty—a beautiful house or shop for example—as it is to teach a class in the Sunday school; and if he demur, I turn him over to Jonathan Edwards, who in his Theory of True Virtue holds to substantially this doctrine. It is ordered that the dignity of human nature shall in a great degree be dependent upon a sympathetic association with what is admirable. It was Hazlitt, I think (certainly it was some one who recognised the highest earthly ministry), who said it was impossible to entertain an angry feeling in the presence of a lovely

woman's portrait (which, you know, done fitly, is the highest reach of art). Whatever is beautiful or sublime has the same purifying and ennobling tendency. The beggars do shrewdly who sit in front of Stewart's. The same person who would give a shilling there, would as likely as not steal a penny from the hat of the blind man round the corner, where those detestable red bricks so outrage every principle known to a builder fit to handle the trowel. In Heaven's name whence this senseless and paltry custom of making of different materials the different fronts of the same edifice? It may be allowable to construct the rear of a house, or a side that is to be built against speedily, of a cheaper stone; but to make the face upon one street of marble, and the face around the corner of brick, as in the case of Stewart's store, and the Society Library, is an outrage as ridiculous as it would be to make the alternate gores of a woman's skirt of petersham and Brussels lace. Bricks are very respectable; I say nothing in their dispraise; but to any man of taste an edifice is much more beautiful built entirely of bricks than it is with but one of two exposed parts of marble; and let me say to the affluent merchant to whom we are indebted for the structure I have mentioned, that until he paints his bricks on Reade street, so that they correspond as nearly as may be with his front on Broadway, his store will be rather a disgrace than an ornament to the city—as indicating but a shabby gentility, an unnatural association of tow cloth and satin, copper and silver, poverty and riches, which should blush in the face of the most inferior exhibition of consistency. With the abolition of this strong contrast, the observer who goes down Broadway will contemplate with delight the classical front. And when the store is extended to Chambers street, let a perfect harmony and unity be preserved in all that shall meet the eye. What a splendid affair it will be! and how easily Broadway, for the money that its piles of brick and stone will have cost in ten years, might be made the most splendid street in Christendom, by a mere observance of the principles of TASTE and UNITY!

In a little hamlet of five or fifteen hundred inhabitants, great buildings are out of place. In a city like ours everything should be in keeping, and the predominant principle should be the *gigantesque*. Oh, if the lot holders from Bowling Green to Union Park would but consider the matter, with intelligent reference not only to the glory of the city but to their own profit! Just think of it: if each separate square were built as if it were one edifice (as, without any blending of property, it might be very easily), though these squares were all of plain brick, and no more costly than the new row of stores in William street, what an imposing spectacle they would present! But if one block were like the Astor House, the next like Stewart's (as we trust Stewart's is to be), the next a row of free stone, the next one of brick, the next one of granite,—here a Gothic, there a Byzantine, then a Corinthian, then, if you please, as plain a front as that of the New York Hotel—with here and there a church, library, lyceum, or art gallery, of a style less suitable for shops or dwellings,—and there would be nothing in the world to compare with Broadway. But this running of democracy into the ground: this whim of every vulgar fellow who owns a front of twenty feet, that he must illustrate his independence by building on it in his own peculiar way, is baulking Providence, and for the full cost of magnificence confining us to tricky mean-

ness. A few months ago rose the chaste and simple front of Baudouine, in a row of decayed brick shops, which, it was hoped, would give place to an entire range in imitation of the initial structure. But since then, the owner of a couple of adjoining lots—a Connecticut man probably—has caused to be put up two stores of a different style, not of half the value of continuations of the less expensive edifice which they join. If instead of this patchwork, now planted here for half a century, there had been an extension of uniform stores from corner to corner—though either Beck's or Baudouine's had been the model—the single splendid edifice would have been a pride and boast of the city, and the separate stores would have been of much greater value than the best can be now. It is as revolting (and much more vexatious, for its publicity) as the worst case of Saxon and Congo amalgamation.

But despite all drawbacks our city is growing wonderfully in splendor as well as in size. Never before did a single season promise so many improvements in Broadway, about the Park, or up-town. Howard's Hotel, the Chatham street Hotel, the Union Park Hotel, are soon to open their spacious accommodations for the citizens of Boston and Philadelphia, who come here to see our magnificence. And if our visitors stay over Sunday, besides the noble Trinity, the airy Puritans and Grace (which is very pretty, though the owners of the Chinese collection would not buy the design after which it was built), we shall have the splendid church on Stuyvesant square—in some respects the most admirable house for sacred purposes in America. The late worthy descendant of a race of noble Dutchmen, who gave for this edifice the ground on which it is built, deserves the grateful remembrance of the people; and, though I love the Book of books, I cannot help thinking, that by giving the square on Second Avenue to the city, Peter G. Stuyvesant did more for the promotion of real virtue than he did in all his liberal benefactions to the Bible Society.

I had proposed in this letter to suggest some indispensable improvements in the city, but ere I was aware my sheet is filled, and I will write you again of the chief subject I had in my mind when I sat down—a subject suggested by Mr. Valentine's excellent Manual of the Corporation. LUDWIG.

### Poetry.

#### POETICAL PRETENDERS.

SHOW me a poet—not a rhyming throng  
Whose brains combined might yield diluted song,

Whose feeble thoughts, when tortured into verse,  
Would jar the nerves of demons to rehearse;  
Who, ere they stretch their mental wings to fly,  
Need like a barn-fowl to be perched on high,  
Which height was reared by others' toil and worth,

And aids their fluttering, screaming flight—to Earth;

Whose vacant skulls would yield for storing sense,  
Enough to pave their largest bump with pence.

'Tis time Columbia lent her aid to song,  
Scorning the cringing and conceited throng,  
Who beg for honors, and when honors come,  
Slander the givers in a foreign home.  
Oh, 'tis a shame when gifted mortals seek  
For inspiration, on the loftiest peak  
Of wisdom's mount; to find when they descend,  
Like Moses, how a chosen people bend  
Before some thing their praise and gold hath wrought,  
Into a form just suited to its thought.

Oh, for an arm Olympian-like to hurl  
Satiric shafts at every rhyming churl,  
Oh, for one throat for all who tease the Muse,  
Not for a Nero-vengeance, but to use  
With more effect an instrument uncouth,  
Called (shall I speak it), called a gag forsooth.

Were the world deluged for a second time,  
Two of each race from all the birds of rhyme,  
Would crowd the perches of the ark so tight,  
That none could dress their dainty plumes  
aright;

And when they all one general chirping gave,  
"Twould be a dose for sickness on the wave.

The largest class are youths of doubtful age,  
Some are in love, some have the Byron rage,  
Some are collegiate prodigies, whose lore  
Is forced to linger 'till commencement's o'er,  
Like an alarm watch, set for such a time,  
When Attic salt diluted into rhyme,  
Sprinkles the crowd, so each may have a drop,  
And wonder whether it be fresh or not.

Behold the bards whose inspiration fills  
Patrician ears with sentimental trills,  
Whose dim refinements and whose vague conceits,

Each lisping, nerveless exquisite repeats,  
The vain-mouth-pieces of a heartless throng,  
The lords of fashion, but the serfs of song.

And others ape the quaint, unique, and strange,  
The lyre for them hath far too short a range,  
Gathering unmeaning words 'till they have wrought,

The faint, unnatural shadow of a thought,  
Dark with the mist Time o'er tradition flings,  
Without the rainbow radiant genius brings.

And others deem their native land a shrine,  
Void of the fire that maketh song divine,  
Through princely halls and feudal towers they roam,

And blush to enter Freedom's nobler dome;  
Each legend fanciful from "outré mer,"  
Each saintly tale that lying monks aver,  
In artful rhythm and petty thought is dressed,  
To mould the eagle spirit of the west.

Bards of the mystical—whose hidden thought,  
Like your souls' vista, leadeeth into naught,  
Barred from stupidity's hard-earned embrace,  
Only by laws of kindred with the race,  
Incomprehensible, profound, refined,  
A murmuring conch-shell images your mind,  
Subtle philosophers, who fain would teach,  
A sophistry your words have failed to reach.

Some weak in power, on quantity rely  
(Thank heaven that Helicon can never dry),  
Would that it had a reservoir for all  
Poetical pretenders, great and small,  
Where they might soak in unity of soul,  
'Till it grew foul enough to choke the whole.  
Alas, misguided mortals—ye have striven  
'Gainst nature's law, to grasp the boon of heaven,  
If dreams of glory would the glory bring,  
How high would fancy wave ambition's wing.

There must be lofty spirits in our land,  
Whose harps are waiting for their gifted hand,  
On whom the muse hath smiled in early years,  
Round whom she lingers with entreating tears,  
Who meet her gaze with melancholy soul,  
And curse the fate that hideth glory's goal;  
Oh rescue these from fate's oblivious shade,  
When song is mute, a nation's laurels fade,  
And fainter burns her hist'ry's beacon fire,  
Her guardian angel is the poet's lyre.

CLEMENT D. NEWMAN.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

#### THE WARNING.

"The spirit of an ancestor of the McLeans of Lochbury is heard to gallop along a stony bank, and then to ride thrice around the family residence, ringing his fairy bridle, and thus intimating approaching calamity."—SCOTT.

#### I.

THE plaided Chief, with dog and gun,  
Strode forth from his castle old,  
When the first bright beams of the morning sun,  
Crowned the far-off hills with gold.

Through mist that wrapped the mountain side  
He tracked his dangerous way,  
The red deer, king of a desert wide!  
In his heathery lair to slay;  
But he came not back to his blushing bride  
At the clouded close of day.

#### II.

When heavy night began to lower,  
And western skies were dim,  
She looked abroad from the highest tower,  
With an earnest gaze for him.  
Dishevelled was her golden hair,  
Her visage wan of hue,  
And listened long, that Lady fair,  
For shout or shrill halloo—  
But no sound came on the wafting air,  
And the darkness deeper grew.

#### III.

"Why comes he not?—why comes he not?"—  
The weary watcher said;  
Then started back, for the night-wind brought  
A barb's impatient tread;  
She knew by the ring of the bridle rein,  
And a wailing sad and low,  
That the soul of a famous chieftain slain  
In battle long ago,  
From the "Silent Land" had been called again,  
A messenger of woe!

#### IV.

Fear,—bloodless fear,—a hand of ice,  
Did on the Lady lay,  
For no mortal horseman galloped thrice  
Around the castle grey;  
And a horrid thrill through her bosom ran,  
While the blast this warning bore—  
"Mourn! for the hounds of a hostile clan  
Have drunk their fill of gore."  
Back to his home, a living man,  
McLean RETURNED no more.

W. H. C. HOSMER.

#### Extracts from New Books.

[Peter Schlemihl in America, recently published by Carey and Hart, is a work of some vigor, and goes over a large field, in which the author takes occasion to administer some pretty hard hits at everything of a social, political, and religious character, that he deems to smack of cant and affectation. We quote a specimen of his style, leaving the point and moral to the discernment of our readers.]

THE Gentleman in Black was evidently disconcerted; but after drinking the wine in his own goblet, he renewed the conversation by inquiring, "If the author of the volume of sermons which was lying before him, on the table, was the parsonic-looking gentleman who seemed so devout, and devoted to the highly-dressed lady in the black velvet dress, so richly endowed with diamonds?"

"No, indeed! You have hit upon a very different character, I assure you. That was the Rev. Dr. Verdant Green, a distinguished divine among us, who is considered most eminently *Rubrical*."

"However that may be," replied the Gentleman in Black, with a smile, "I think there's no question of his being very *rubicund*."

"Yes," said Mrs. Smith with a gay laugh, "that is unquestionable; and can you tell me how it is that *rubicity* and *rubicundity* should be so inseparable?"

"It is very certain they are," replied the Gentleman in Black; "and I presume it arises from the universality of the rule, that those who prescribe fasts to others, in order to preserve that due equilibrium which is a law of Nature, replenish their own stomachs while they keep others empty, so that the average is thus preserved. May I ask who was the lady?"

"Is it possible that you don't know Mrs. Van Dam? She would be greatly offended to suppose it possible that *she* was unknown

by any one of my guests! Mrs. Van Dam is, as you must have seen, a very distinguished personage, who aspires, not only to High Church in religion, but high rank in society. Indeed, she has been for the last three weeks, so my dear Mrs. Tripp assured me, going the rounds of her cliques, expressing her doubts and anxieties whether it would do to accept the invitation to my party; and has thus canvassed the upper circles pretty extensively, and excited the several VIRTUOUS INDIGNATION SOCIETIES no little, by her earnest questionings with those disposed to accept, and the earnest expression of her fears to those who had accepted; so that there was, for a while, much dubiety with them, whether nine out of every ten invited, would accept or decline; but finding the Worths and the Schuylers, and other independent members, were not to be intimidated, and that the current was setting in my favor, she relinquished the effort, and making a virtue of necessity, conferred upon me the distinguished honor of her own acceptance, securing for me, at the same time, the light of the countenance of the Rev. Dr. Verdant Green, whom the wicked world calls her shadow."

"VIRTUOUS INDIGNATION SOCIETIES! I am acquainted with very many societies, but I have never before heard of these."

"Is it possible! I assure you these societies are very numerous among us," replied Mrs. Smith, "and exist, not only in our cities, but in all our towns and villages. They consist of those alarmingly proper persons who deem themselves the conservators of public morals, and guardians of the public peace. They meet twice a week, or oftener, and *two* are deemed a *quorum* for the transaction of the business of the society: their meetings are held usually at each other's houses, but may be held at the opera-house, or the church, or, indeed, wherever and whenever opportunity shall present itself. They do not always take this distinctive appellation, but sometimes are known as '*The Sewing Circle*,' or '*Our Set*,' or some such common cognomen; but by whatever title they are known, they become the most formidable of all inquisitors, each of whom, like the celebrated Council of Ten, have their Lion's-Mouth always open to receive all manner of missives and rumors, to the injury of their own peculiar and dear five hundred friends."

"May I ask how they carry their mandates into effect?" inquired the Gentleman in Black.

"Oh! unhappily, this is no difficult task, inasmuch as they are banded together to carry into effect their dreaded determinations. Of the most active and efficient of these in our city, none can exceed my own special and dear friend Mrs. Tripp, whose sagacity and satire can never be over-tasked in this labor of love, and whose zeal sometimes, finding itself unsupplied with the necessary victims to be broken on the wheel of the Virtuous Indignation Society, has often, with unsurpassed skill, managed to use up the several members constituting the venerable Council of Ten themselves, of whom Mrs. Van Dam has assumed the Dogess-ship; placing them, like another Phalaris, in the Brazen Bull they have created for others, and blowing up the flames with her own mouth; so that she became quite a formidable personage, and has fairly succeeded, from their very dread of her, in obtaining her position in the first circles of Babylon the Less, and which few dare question; and it is only once in a while that the Van Tromps and Van Dams venture to leave



her and her fair daughters at home, as in the instance of Katrine Van Tromp's fancy dress-ball.

"Now, the labors of the several Virtuous Indignation Societies were especially directed to prevent Col. Worth and his lady and lovely daughter from accepting my invitations; and their prompt and polite acceptance was of the first importance to me; and their presence to-night did me infinite service."

"May I ask if Doctor Verdant Green is a member of the society you have just described?" inquired the Gentleman in Black.

"The Virtuous Indignation Society? No; this is exclusively a Ladies' Society, and certain gentlemen only are admitted as honorary members. There was quite a contest, I am told, by Mrs. Tripp, as to the propriety of his admission; and in speaking of this contest, Mrs. Tripp gave me a somewhat amusing account of a transaction in which the Doctor was to have acted a conspicuous part, and which was related in her best style."

"Do let me have the pleasure of hearing it."

"It has no immediate relation to his election; but was told me by Mrs. Tripp, during her first call, when, as I have told you, she did me the kindness to tell me of the efforts Mrs. Van Dam had made to exclude me from the circles of the 'upper ten thousand' of Babylon the Less.

"I shall be exceedingly gratified by a specimen of this lady's talents."

"I wish it were possible for me to give it to you with all her significant looks and intonations of voice; but these are inimitable."

"I will attempt to realize them; so pray begin."

Mrs. Smith, smiling, with a lively tone and manner, commenced the narration as requested.

"Mrs. Van Dam, so says Mrs. Tripp, was sought and won when a young girl, by General Van Dam, the only child of an old Dutch merchant, who was most pugnaciously attached to the Reformed Dutch Church, of which he was an elder, and to the High Dutch language, by which he had been initiated into its doctrines, so that though living so many years in Babylon, he never attained any more of our language than enabled him to transact the business of his commercial house. And when his only son and heir communicated to his father his wish to marry, the old merchant gave his consent only on condition of the ceremony being performed by his pastor in Low Dutch, with which the General was familiar from childhood, but of which the young lady was totally ignorant. She, however, made no objection; the wealth of the father was great and she was poor, and a husband was not to be declined on such conditions, which, though they seem strange enough, were at that time to her a matter of perfect indifference. So the ceremony took place in accordance with the father's wishes.

"During his lifetime they resided in the lower part of the city, but as soon after as was convenient they removed to their present beautiful residence up town; and finding the aristocracy were mostly associated with the Church, she at length succeeded in persuading her husband that it was too far to attend the old Dutch Church, and he reluctantly consented that she should come under the pastoral care and guidance of the Rev. Dr. Verdant Green, Rector of one of the most numerous attended churches of the city. Here she became indoctrinated into all the claims of 'The

Church,' and the peculiar dignity and sanctity of its rites. For the first time in her life she felt an inquietude as to the validity of her marriage, though the presence of four sons and five daughters, all in due course of time, one would have supposed would have left her in no doubt that the relations of married life had been fairly and fully established: still her conscience became very tender under the dreadful consciousness that she had never been married in accordance with the claims of 'The Church;' and this state of mind was greatly increased by so often hearing from certain very devout ladies, who were ignorant of her early life, that in their opinion all persons, in the condition in which she found herself, were living in a dreadful state of open sin. Not that the Doctor taught this so palpably, though she felt that this was a fair and necessary deduction of the doctrines she frequently heard from him. What could she do? She feared to lose the good opinion of these pious ladies, and almost as a necessary result, she became more and more devout, hoping to compensate for her sin by the increased strictness of her conformity to 'The Church,' so that she became quite a saint, and well fitted for the Doggess-ship of the Virtuous Indignation Society, which by common consent was assigned to her.

"In her dressing-room, which opened into her chamber, and which she styled her oratory, there stood a large mahogany wardrobe, so it seemed to the General, who was never permitted to more than look in at the door, as it was casually opened; and so jealous had the lady become of even these glimpses, that unconsciously to himself there arose in the mind of the General a wish to see more of this sanctum of his wife. Not that he had any jealousy in all this, for the room only opened into the chamber: but we naturally wish to pry into that from which we are sedulously shut out."

"I did not know," said the Gentleman in Black, "that this extended to gentlemen."

"I believe it is an infirmity of our natures, not restricted to our sex," replied Mrs. Smith, and with great vivacity of manner she continued:

"It chanced one day that an alarm of fire was given in the house, just at the hour observed by Mrs. Van Dam for her devotions. Of course it reached the lady, who flew down stairs, leaving her oratory and chamber doors open. The General was the first to return to the chamber, and seeing the oratory door open, walked in: what was his surprise to find the wardrobe with its doors wide open, presenting to him, not a string of dresses, but a sort of altar-piece! On a marble bracket was a beautiful crucifix with an ivory Saviour; behind this, a picture of the Madonna, with her burning and bleeding heart, and its piercing thorns, and on the sides were pictures of some seraphic saints with their skulls and cross-bones; and from a shelf on which lay her prayer-book there was a beautiful curtain hanging, on which was embroidered, in gold, a small fish. The General gazed on all this in astonishment.

"Can you tell me, my dear sir, what this fish has to do with an oratory? I asked Mrs. Tripp to explain it, and she was at fault, though she said, 'I might depend upon it it was really so, and she thought it might be some sort of a symbol, and for the same purpose as the great cod-fish in the Hall of the Representatives of her native state;\* but

\* A cod-fish, as large as life, hangs from the ceiling of the Hall of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts.

when I asked, 'what this purpose was, and whether the people of her state really worshipped a cod-fish,' she confessed 'she could not tell, only she had seen the one with her own eyes, and had every reason to believe it was really so in Mrs. Van Dam's oratory.' Now before I go on, will you do me the favor to tell me if it indeed be a symbol, and if so, of what? for I confess this is the only thing in Mrs. Tripp's story that struck me as improbable."

"I believe it is derived from the fact, that in the Greek name for fish (Ichthus) the letters I. H. S. occur, and the fish indicates the same idea as the I. H. S., which is the more common symbol of JESUS HOMINIS SALVATOR."

"I'm very much obliged to you; and yet what a strange symbol a fish is to indicate that JESUS CHRIST is the Saviour of men!"

"Certainly it is; but won't you proceed? I am quite interested to hear how all this ended."

"The pious lady," continued Mrs. Smith, smiling very kindly, "having finished her scolding of the servants, whose carelessness in setting on fire a horse-full of clothing had caused the alarm, bethought herself of her prayers, and that her oratory door was open; so she flew up stairs in breathless haste, and there found the General in a state of amazement gazing into her sanctum sanctorum. His first question was sternly to inquire, 'Have you, madam, become a Roman Catholic?' 'Oh, dear husband, no—no, indeed!' 'What do all these things mean, then?' 'Mean, dearest? they are only helps to my devotions. I assure you I'm no Romanist: see, here is the only prayer-book I ever use, and I desire no other.'

"The General was satisfied only when he had read on the title-page in large type, 'The Book of Common Prayer, according to the use of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States.' It was fortunate that it lay open on the reading shelf; and the well-thumbed leaves and the worn velvet cushion on which she knelt were witnesses for her truth: so that, from a feeling of painful surprise, the General's mind now looked upon all this secrecy and seclusion as something very amusing; and his merry face encouraged his lady to speak the secret of her soul, and to beg him to save her from the condemnation of her own conscience, and to consent to have the marriage rite duly performed by the Rev. Dr. Verdant Green. The General mused awhile, with some very funny thoughts in his head, and then taking his wife by the shoulders, he turned her round and round, all the while scanning her with a very smiling aspect: 'Really,' said he, 'I am exceedingly surprised at your proposal: but let us see once more how you look. Yes, you are still a fine-looking lady; please open your mouth; yes, your teeth are sound; your skin is still fair, and your eyes bright; and I doubt,' said he, musing a moment, 'if I could do better. But, my dear, how few men there are in Babylon who would marry their wives after having had them for twenty years! But after all, I think I will; I don't believe I could better myself.'

"So saying, he kissed Mrs. Van Dam very earnestly and tenderly. The lady was delighted."

"At being so warmly caressed?" inquired the Gentleman in Black, smiling.

"If you interrupt me," said Mrs. Smith, "I won't proceed."

"I pray you to pardon me. I won't offend again."

"On this condition only will I end this story. The General promised to marry her again, and kissing her, took his leave of her. Mrs. Van Dam went immediately round to her pious friends, and with tears of joy, told them of her happiness, and invited them to come that very evening to her house to witness the solemn service. These visits, and giving necessary orders for suitable entertainment, occupied her fully during the day. About eight o'clock in the evening, the General and his sons returned home, and found in the saloons quite a party of his wife's most select friends. They all seemed more than usually glad to see the General; and the ladies especially gave him more than their accustomed warmth of pressure, while their eyes beamed upon him with looks of tenderness and love. The General noticed this, and also that when it was over, the party seemed to relax into a sobriety of manner and whispering in their conversation, which in a short time made him feel as if this was more like a Quaker meeting than a fashionable party. Nor was this feeling lessened when he saw the velvet-covered and golden-clasped prayer-book of his wife lying on a small table, on which was a magnificent lamp, whose light made it a most conspicuous object of observation. There was evidently the hush of expectation; but where were his wife and daughters? They seemed all to have disappeared. Finding himself somewhat mystified, he whispered to a sweet, witching widow, with whom he loved to jest, as married men do—though I think it's very wrong," said Mrs. Smith, trying to look severe; "so giving her a gentle pressure on her shoulder, he asked, 'What has become of my wife?' The young widow in an instant rose, and led him into the entry, and said, with the most speaking eyes, 'Do you want to see her very much? Oh! she's so lovely to-night! Ah! you are a happy man; such a wife as you will get! If I could make an exchange now, how tempted I should be!' 'My dear lady,' said the General, 'pray be serious for this once, and tell me where are my lady-folks?' 'Oh, you are so impatient!' was the widow's reply; 'I'm sure you are not wont to be so; but I forgive you for this once. Dr. Verdant Green has not yet come; and you know there's no time lost.' What did the widow mean?—who could tell! She would not, but with a gay laugh, led him up the stairs, into his own bed-chamber, and opening the door, exclaimed, 'Here, dear Mrs. Van Dam, is the most impatient of all grooms I've seen for these seven years!'

"The room was dazzling with light; Mrs. Van Dam, most magnificently dressed in white satin and lace; her diamonds shone from a coronet which encircled her brow, and from the back of her hair, which is, you know, still very rich and luxuriant, there depended a lace veil of great beauty. Altogether, she must have been worth seeing; and as if such a vision was not in itself sufficiently brilliant, there stood her daughters, all radiant in Swiss muslin dresses, with camilla japonicas in their hair, and the simplicity of their adornments beautifully contrasted and heightened the effect of their dear mamma's."

"The effect upon the General was certainly very astounding. His wife came forward and kissed him most tenderly: 'Dear General,' she said, 'what has kept you so long? I feared you would be late.' To all which the General replied, in a voice which was not half so sweet as the lady's, though it was distinct-

ly heard by several who sat near the doors of the saloons below stairs: '*Donder and blixum!*' (his favorite phrase), what does all this mean? 'Heavens!' exclaimed his wife, 'do you ask me what all this means! Did you not promise to marry me this very morning?' 'Yes, indeed; I remember I made some such rash promise; but did you invite these people here to witness the ceremony?' 'Certainly, I did; and I am gratified to say, they are delighted and edified by your conduct.' 'And who is to be the priest?' 'Who! Dr. Verdant Green: who else should I think of having?' 'And has Dr. Verdant Green counselled this reunion?' 'No,' said Mrs. Van Dam; 'my friends thought he had better be as surprised as we are sure he will be delighted.'

"The General having surveyed all the embarrassments with which his wife had so sedulously and ingeniously surrounded him, now began to look around with an air not so savage as he had worn, and seeing his daughters all so beautifully dressed, he asked them, 'What part they were to play in the tragedy to be performed?' They replied, very sweetly and innocently, '*That they were to be mother's bride's-maids!*' This was too much for the General, who now relieved himself with a burst of laughter, long and loud, which fairly shook the house. His wife, terrified beyond measure, asked him, in a tone of agony, 'Did you not this very morning promise to marry me?' 'My dear wife,' he replied, 'I did; though I am still surprised at your venturing upon such a request; but I did not think you would wish me to do so in the presence of others.' 'But why not?' asked Mrs. Van Dam, in the utmost terror, foreboding, after all, a refusal of her heart's desire. 'Why not? because,' replied the General, in a tone of asperity, notwithstanding all his previous mirth, '*if you are willing to pass an Act of Bastardy upon my children, I am not!*' The poor lady all but swooned. She saw in an instant that this was a new view of matters, which had never occurred to her. The General returned to the saloons, and pleaded an engagement to the party, and left the house. The young widow told them the scene above stairs, with the utmost particularity. Poor Mrs. Van Dam had not strength to return to her friends, but awaited the coming of the Rev. Dr. Verdant Green, to whom she told her griefs. The party, in the meantime, thought it best to retire, asking no questions as to the cause of the failure of the marriage ceremony, from which they had hoped so much by way of an example to others; and as most of these ladies were members of the *Virtuous Indignation Society*, all these particulars were naturally told to Mrs. Tripp, my very agreeable informant, who closed her narration by saying, with her significant look and smile, 'The Doctor found some soothing emollient for her tender conscience, and so has reconciled her to continue as the General's wife.'

### Scientific Proceedings.

#### NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

JUNE MEETING, 1848.—There was a large attendance of the members of this time-honored Institution, at the Historical Rooms, at its last regular meeting, the HON. LUTHER BRADISH presiding.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read, MR. BEEKMAN, the Domestic Corresponding Secretary, presented and read a synopsis of the correspondence since his former report. He also presented a communication from the New York Lyceum of Natural

History, proposing an exchange of certain models in stone of ancient ruins in the East, belonging to the Lyceum, for works on Natural History, in possession of the Society, which proposition was referred to the Executive Committee.

MR. BEEKMAN also read a communication, addressed to the President, by the Washington National Monument Association, inviting the Society to attend the ceremony of laying the corner stone of the Monument, at the city of Washington, on the 4th of July next; and, on motion of MR. GIBBS, the Society voted to accept the invitation.

MR. MOORE, the Librarian, presented MS. Catalogues, which have been completed and bound, of the Maps and Charts in the Library (2000 in number); also of the Newspapers; and of the additions to the Books and Pamphlets which have been made since the year 1843. He stated, that since the last meeting, donations had been received at the Library, from the following persons:—

Hon. Marshall S. Bidwell; John Romeyn Brodhead; Henry A. Brady; Hon. D. S. Dickinson; Hon. John Duer; Hon. Edward Everett, Cambridge, Mass.; Samuel Hazard, Esq., Philadelphia; Isaac Q. Leake, Esq., Reading, N.Y.; Joshua Leavitt, Esq., Boston; Benson J. Lossing; Orsamus H. Marshall, Esq., Buffalo; Joel Munsell, Albany; Hon. Henry C. Murphy; Newark Library Association; Hon. J. G. Palfrey; George P. Putnam; James H. Raymond, Esq.; Leon Vaisse, Paris; Charles E. West; Gen. Prosper M. Wetmore; William Williams, Esq., Utica.

Among the donations mentioned, were files of newspapers from 1801 to 1827, published at Utica, presented by WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Esq., and numbering 24 volumes; several volumes of newspapers and pamphlets, published at Albany, by MR. JOEL MUNSELL; and two valuable Manuscripts of the late TIMOTHY PICKERING, of Mass., presented by ISAAC Q. LEAKE, Esq.—one, a Treatise on the Military Establishment proper for the United States, and a Plan for a National Militia; the other, the Correspondence of Gen. Pickering, in 1781, with Col. Hay and others, of the New York forces, relative to the collection of forage, &c., upon lands of refugees in West Chester.

MR. GIBBS, Chairman of the Executive Committee, made a report on the nominations presented at the last meeting; whereupon, the following gentlemen were elected:—

*Honorary Members.*—Hon. John A. Dix, of New York; and Hon. George P. Marsh, of Vermont.

*Corresponding Members.*—Joshua V. H. Clark, Manlius; Joel Munsell, Albany; and George Brinley, Jun., Hartford, Conn.

*Resident Members.*—William H. Burr, W. S. Jewett, Thomas J. Crowen, J. Hancock Douglass.

Several nominations of new members, resident and corresponding, were then made, and referred as usual.

MR. E. GEORGE SQUIER, of Ohio, was then introduced to the meeting, and read a paper on "The Historical and Mythological Traditions of the Algonquin Tribes of Indians, with a translation of the '*Walum Olum*,' or Bark Record, of the Linni-Lenape."

Mr. Squier's paper, though upon a subject which has on several occasions attracted the notice of the Society, was an interesting one, presenting some new views and facts illustrating the great question of Aboriginal life in this country. We have only space for a closing observation of the speaker.



Looking upon the remains of Western New York in a new light, as part of a system of ancient monuments, extending from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, and gradually increasing in size and regularity as they go down the Mississippi Valley, until they develop themselves in the imposing structures of Mexico and Central America, Mr. Squier said, they are invested with new interest, and have new claims upon the attention of the archaeologist. Their importance in illustrating the Ante-Columbian history of our Continent, in making known to us the migrations of the aboriginal nations, and in illustrating the rise of that peculiar type of civilization found among the Aztecs and Peruvians, cannot be too highly estimated. He expressed the hope, therefore, that immediate measures might be taken to ensure accurate plans and descriptions of such as yet resist the encroachments of time, and the levelling hands of improvement. A small sum judiciously expended, he thought, would enable this Society to accomplish this laudable object, and set such an example to kindred institutions throughout the country, as would result in giving form and direction to this interesting and important branch of investigation. With the hope of directing the attention of the public once more to the subject of proving at least the localities and general features of the ancient remains in New York, Mr. Squier submitted a catalogue of such works as have already been noticed, with brief allusions to their character; and suggested that if the members of this Society, particularly those residing in the western portions of the State, could be induced to so far interest themselves, as to transmit such authentic information upon this subject as they may be able to obtain, to the Historical Society, the list might hereafter not only be verified, but greatly extended and perfected.

On motion of Mr. CHAUNCEY, the thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Squier, for the interesting paper read before them, and a copy was requested to be deposited in the Society's archives.

Mr. J. B. VARNUM, Jr., then read a memorial addressed to the lawyers of the United States, petitioning for the purchase of Mount Vernon, &c., with a view of obtaining the signatures of such of the members as approved the object.

The Society then adjourned to the first Tuesday of October.

### The Fine Arts.

#### SONNET

On the Picture by Murillo, at the Gallery of the Old Masters, No. 563 Broadway.

#### THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT.

Hail, holy group! wending with weary feet,  
Yet led of Heaven, along the desert road;  
The Virgin mother, with the infant God;  
She, with a look so sad, yet calmly sweet,  
The hand outstretched, half reverence, half caress,  
The deep, forecasting eyes, bent in his face,  
As if the wondrous future she could trace  
Clear-written there: He, full of tenderness,  
The Saviour imaged in the yearning child:  
Still by their side the faithful Joseph fares,  
And seems the beast, with patient step and mild,  
As conscious of the sacred load he bears.  
So speed they, while the guardian host above  
Beckon them on, with wings of hovering love. C.

The Cork Examiner states that Government has resolved to make a yearly grant of £350 to the school of design about to be established in Cork.—*Eng. Paper.*

### Miscellany.

#### NATIONAL EXCHANGES.

THE Report of the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress (Report No. 590, dated May 4, 1848), to whom was referred the Memorial of M. Vattemare, in relation to interchanges of literary and scientific works, has lately been presented to the House of Representatives. To render the decision of the Committee more readily intelligible, it may be as well to quote M. Vattemare's proposal embodied in his Memorial (dated February 16, 1848). After giving an account of his labors for the last eight years, he proceeds:—

"In these facts, your honorable body will perceive the evidences of that profound impression which a consideration of this new method of binding nation to nation in the ties of brotherhood—this new species of diplomacy for the formation of a general treaty of universal peace and good will—has created in quarters of the highest dignity and authority. Monarchs themselves have united with ancient colleges, venerable universities, and the most distinguished learned societies, as well as the most eminent men in private life, men rendered illustrious by their attainments and their rich contributions to the stock of human knowledge, in putting the seal of their approval to the plan itself, and in encouraging its humble but devoted advocate to fresh efforts and renewed perseverance in his labor; while, on this continent, the proofs of the same feeling are manifest in the fact that the legislatures of many States have not only passed resolutions in favor of the scheme, but have taken efficient measures to promote its success. Your memorialist, too, can point to a fact yet more cheering; and it is one which, while it fills his heart with gratitude on his own account, swells it with a just pride on yours. It is that, from the hour he, for the second time, set his foot upon your shores, to this hour, though he has in that time traversed so large a portion of your country, and visited so many of your cities and great towns, he has not yet been permitted to expend the first dollar, either for his personal support or his travelling expenses. Everywhere he has been greeted with the most cordial welcome. Everywhere he has found friends, supporters, voluntary and zealous fellow laborers. Requests and invitations, daily multiplying, have called him on from State to State, from city to city, thus evincing the ardor and freshness of that love of science and literature and art which is in all its vigorous youth among you. The recital of this in his native land, has there awakened a corresponding enthusiasm in behalf of this people—enthusiasm which centuries of mere commercial or diplomatic intercourse would have failed to produce. If so much has thus already been effected, what may not rationally be looked for as the happy results to be realized? The great simplicity of the plan commends it at once to every understanding; and its utter separation from everything of a political and party character clears before it an unobstructed and a rapid career.

"Cheered and sustained by these facts and considerations, your memorialist is emboldened to present to your honorable body the practical features of his plan, and very respectfully, yet earnestly, to invoke your own high agency in aiding to carry them into effect.

"After consulting on the subject the most learned and scientific bodies, as well as the most illustrious statesmen, both here and abroad, and reflecting maturely on the results of many years' personal experience, he is led to the conclusion that the most direct, easy, and certain mode of effecting the object in view would be to establish and organize a general international agency for the exclusive purpose of conducting scientific and literary exchanges between the governments, legislatures, and municipal and scientific bodies in the nations of Europe on the one hand, and the States of this Union on the other. The

seat of such agency to be in the city of Paris, having subordinate agents in New York, for the United States, and in the capitals of the European nations for Europe, whose duty it shall be to receive the objects of exchange in the district assigned, respectively, to each, and forward them to the central depot, in Paris (or, under its direction, to the subordinate depot, in New York), from which points the general exchange between the two hemispheres shall be directly made, and thence distributed through the subordinate agencies, and so spread, for universal benefit, throughout every part of the respective countries who shall enter into the plan. Of course, these subordinate agencies may be multiplied to any extent, as the growing population, especially of this country, may demand, and as the benefits of the system shall attract to it increasing patronage and support.

"Connected with this federal agency, should be a system of authentic reports, stating what has been collected for exchange, and also what has been received in return. These reports (while they operated as a salutary check on agents disposed to be unfaithful) would be a means of furnishing, mutually, to the two continents, what each might obtain from the other, and where the objects desired are to be found.

"To illustrate, suppose a European city was forming an extensive collection of fossil remains to illustrate a course of lectures on geology, or comparative anatomy, in looking over the published reports of objects for exchange, they see, in one of your western cities or towns in the interior, a list of fossil remains recently discovered in that vicinity, of which duplicate specimens could be furnished, all such a city would have to do would be to write to Paris and request that in the next national exchange with America fossils from Missouri or Illinois might be included; at the same time stating what scientific works lay, unused, in their own libraries ready for distribution abroad. Thus, by a machinery the most simple, easy, rapid, and certain, two distant spots on the earth might be furnished with the means of interchanging intellectual wealth on the one hand, for natural and physical treasures on the other; of the very existence of which they might both have remained in ignorance; an exchange to mutual benefit, which, by no other possible means, would or could ever have happened.

"It is obvious that, so far as legislation can subserve the establishment of such a plan (which, after all, must rest for its support on the free approbation of the people, the ultimate recipients of its benefits), it must look to the legislatures of the several States for aid. But, beside the local laws which they may see fit to enact for its encouragement, it will be in the power of your honorable body not only to honor and accredit it by your high recognition and sanction, but to contribute to its success by your own enactments; and, in this view, your memorialist most respectfully prays.

"1st. That the law securing patent rights and copyright may be so amended as to require all authors or publishers, taking out copyrights for works to be printed, to place in the depot of the central agency at New York, subject to the order of government, copies of such work, in addition to the two copies now required to be deposited in the library of Congress.

"2d. The enactment of a law (accompanied by all necessary guards for the prevention of fraud), admitting duty free all works and other objects addressed by governments abroad, through the general depot of exchange in Paris to the branch depot in New York, exclusively for the purpose of international exchange.

"3d. That the resolutions heretofore passed by both Houses of Congress, in July, 1840, in the words following (and which have hitherto remained a dead letter on the statute book), be carried into full effect, viz:

"Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

"1. That the librarian, under the superin-

tendence of the Committee on the Library, be [authorized] to exchange such duplicates as may be in the library for other books or works.

"2. That he be [authorized] in the same way to exchange documents.

"3. That hereafter fifty additional copies of each volume of documents, printed by order of either House, be printed and bound, for the purpose of exchange in foreign countries.

"To effect this, it will be requisite to repass a similar resolution, substituting the words, 'and is hereby directed and required,' for the word 'authorized,' and also, by assigning a place of deposit for, or otherwise disposing of, the fifty copies ordered to be furnished for exchange.

"4th. That the above regulations be understood as applying exclusively to works of a scientific character, and promotive of intellectual improvement; works of a different description being allowed to seek the usual channels opened by those engaged in the book trade.

"5th. That duplicates of the objects of curiosity and scientific interest, brought home by the late exploring expedition (so honorable to the intelligence and liberality of your government and country), be directed to be assigned, by those having official control of the objects so collected, for the purpose of being exchanged on authorized demand for them, for objects of a similar kind furnished by European governments or learned bodies.

"In conclusion, your memorialist takes leave to assure your honorable body that in asking at your hands the sanction and aid of governmental power, he is induced by no petty miserable views to his personal advantage or emolument. All that he has already sacrificed on the altar of this object of his enthusiasm. For this, he has not only made a burnt offering of his own private fortune, but, what is to him far, far more dear, has given up the joys of domestic life, the sweet solace of his own fireside—voluntarily banishing himself from the bosom of wife and children, home and country—to traverse sea and land; to encounter danger, privation, and toil; to spend weary days and sleepless nights; and, amid the jeers of the ignorant and suspicious, and calumnies of the selfish and the narrow minded, to consecrate himself to the triumph of *one single, simple, disinterested, beneficent idea.*

"He asks the establishment of a permanent agency, in order to give substantial embodiment to that which is, as yet, but a temporary experiment: to provide 'a local habitation and a name' for that which, as yet, has been only the fairy dream of an enthusiast, or, at best, but the first fruits of the efforts of a wanderer. Sensible (alas but with too much reason) of the frail tenure by which he holds his own life, and apprehensive that, unless some palpable and permanent form be given to the object to which that life has been devoted, no other individual might be found to pursue it with the same fond and untiring devotion of heart, he appeals to your honorable body to take his long-loved project under the broad wings of the national protection. *Once there, he will have no further fears for its security and ultimate triumph.*

"Nor let it be objected that the present is an inauspicious period for the establishment and prosecution of a great national object like this, which may be expected best to flourish in the smiling days of public peace, because all the lessons of history witness the contrary. They tell us that the most valuable and important of the literary establishments which have blessed, and are still blessing, the world, have had their origin in periods of the highest public excitement, when the minds of men were heated, expanded, roused, by the exigencies of national affairs; many of them having, in point of fact, been born in the agonizing throes of revolution itself.

"Having, through your favorable reception of his proposal, had this heavy burden taken off his spirit, your memorialist will feel himself at liberty to consummate the offering he has made of himself to it, by devoting the remaining years

that may yet be spared to him to watch its progress, to aid, as he may be able, its growing strength, and, as a father, to stretch out his willing, though, it may be, but weak and trembling hand, to give his last benediction, with his latest prayer, to this only child of his long cherished affection."

Now hear the Committee in reply:—

"The extent to which the federal government can co-operate in this great and ennobling plan for the fraternization of Europe and America is, in the opinion of the committee, confined to the distribution of such publications, documents, and laws, as are printed by its authority, or for its use in the discharge of its constitutional functions. The great fields of literature, science, and art, belong almost exclusively to private individuals and associations, and the governments of the States. The works printed for Congress, as yet comparatively few, are nevertheless the only just exposition of our system of national government, and authentic record of our contributions to science through the explorations of our expeditions by land and sea in unfrequented regions."

The Report then comments upon the advantages to be derived by a regular and continuous interchange between the family of nations, of the latest information of the results of their experience in all subjects affecting their various social and political conditions. It continues:

"This consideration appears to have been silently operating upon Congress for some years past, especially since the first application to it by the memorialist. There is a glimmering of it even before. Thus we find, in 1832, that it directed a copy of the American State Papers to be sent to some proper depository in England, in return for a donation to the Library of Congress of the publications of the Record Commission of the British government. But since 1840, the acts of Congress have been very explicit on the subject. In 1843, the census returns were directed to be distributed to the ministers and diplomatic agents of foreign governments; in 1845, copies of the work of the Exploring Expedition were directed to be sent to all the foreign governments with which we had subsisting diplomatic relations; and, in 1846, the new edition of the Laws of the United States was distributed in the same way. It may have been the object of Congress, in making these provisions, to invite foreign powers to a reciprocity in regard to their State papers, laws, and other governmental publications not always purchasable.

"In order to render the system truly serviceable, the publications should be made accessible to the intelligent inquirer, whether holding political place or not. Documents locked up in the library of a monarch, or in the archives of a department, must, necessarily, be excluded from public use. It seems, therefore, proper that additional depositories should be selected, such as public libraries, where they partake of a national character.

"With these general views of the plan of the memorialist, the committee believe that permanency, regularity, and efficiency to the system of international exchanges, can best be secured by the establishment of a common general agency or agencies by the different nations entering into the arrangement. Such agency could act not only for the governments, but when once established could be used for the same purpose by societies, authors, inventors, and publishers. By devolving the duty at home upon some competent agent, with provision for the expense of packing the books, and transmitting them to and from the general agent, there is no reason why the interchange should not continue as long as it may be the pleasure of the governments concerned. The committee do not, however, assent to the proposition of the memorialist that the copyright law be so amended as to require authors and publishers to fur-

nish to the government, for the purposes of this exchange, a number of copies of their works, in addition to those now required for the libraries of Congress and the Smithsonian Institute. \* \* The tax of two copies is now seriously objected to by many publishers, and an increase of the burden, as it undoubtedly would be in the case of large and expensive publications, would, in such cases, tend to retard rather than 'promote the progress of science and useful arts,' the purpose for which the authority to enact copyright laws is conferred by the constitution. In fact, this may well be left to the publishers themselves, and the committee believe that if the international agency be established, they will soon discover it to be of such advantage to them by making their publications known in quarters where both fame to the author and profit to the publisher might be acquired, as in many cases gladly to avail themselves of it.

"But in the views of the memorialist generally, the committee are happy to concur. After the success which has thus far crowned his unwearied and voluntary labors, they think his expectations of aid from us have been justly formed, and should be promptly satisfied. They therefore recommend that the committee be authorized to establish such agencies, and organize such a plan of donation and exchange as they may deem best for this purpose; that all books sent to the federal or State governments, to any departments, or libraries of either, to the Academy at West Point, or to the National Institute, be admitted duty free; and that the sum of two thousand dollars be appropriated to enable the committee to carry the measure into effect."

Then follows a list (occupying 34 pages) of Legislative Documents, Scientific Works, Medals, Maps, Engravings, Statuettes, &c., presented to Congress, various Public Departments, and the National Institute, by the Chamber of Deputies, the several Ministerial Departments, Scientific Societies, Literary Men and Artists of France, through the agency of M. Vattemare. The spirit which has actuated the donors of this magnificent and, in some respects, unique collection, is well illustrated by M. V.'s statement with respect to a splendid folio that "the bookbinder, hearing that this work was destined by me for the United States, refused to receive the amount of his bill, being anxious to contribute his share towards the expression of our good feeling for our trans-Atlantic brethren."

M. Vattemare gives the following summary of this collection:

"And, as a yet more convincing proof how this brotherly feeling has spread itself on the other side of the Atlantic, your memorialist is happy in being able to say that he has now brought with him twelve thousand valuable books, four thousand maps and charts, two hundred medals, besides engravings, statuettes, &c. Among these books are to be found some four thousand ancient works on theology (including many very precious early copies of the sacred scriptures), as well as others on history, political economy, the physical sciences, &c., dating from 1475 down to the eighteenth century.

"Besides this valuable body of ancient learning, the collection is enriched by copies of the greatest and most expensive national works (of a more modern date) ever published by order of the French government: such as the magnificent work on Egypt, under the orders of Napoleon; the recent great work on the ruins of ancient Nineveh; another on ancient and modern Persia; also, what is termed the 'Oriental Collection,' being a splendid edition of the most precious manuscripts in the royal library of Paris, in all the languages of the east, accompanied by a French translation; the collection, complete, of the Journal des Savants; the Annales des Mines, in seventy-five volumes; Annales des Ponts et Chaussées, in sixty volumes; the Geological Map of France (the largest and most beautiful work of the kind ever given to



the world); the Bulletin des Lois, in three hundred volumes; the Bulletin de la Cour de Cassation, in one hundred volumes; Le Musée des Antiques; La Galerie de Florence; Les Vases Etrusques de Hamilton; l'Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux d'Afrique; Les Documents Inédites de l'Histoire de France, in sixty-three volumes; Constructions Navales des Nations Extra-Européennes; Statistique Monumentale de Paris, a work illustrative of all the public buildings of that metropolis, from the time of Julius Cæsar to the eighteenth century, with other works of a similar class. Then there are also many important works relative to your own continent, and two thousand volumes on agriculture, commerce, domestic industry, &c.\*

And how has this munificent offering "made to the American nation, represented by the National Institute," been received? The cases containing it have been in this country a twelvemonth; let M. Vattemare tell the story:

"The above works have been presented by the French people, as a token of their friendly feelings towards America. In selecting the National Institute as the recipient of their donations, they considered it as the scientific representative of the American nation, and likely to use them for the greatest good of the greatest number. The unhappy financial condition of that institution has entirely frustrated the design with which the works were given. They have remained unopened, neglected, and useless, for want of the means of making them available. Will not Congress take into consideration some measure to carry out the intentions of the donors?"

We reiterate the question. The works given to the different states, scientific bodies, and literary institutions, have, we believe, been distributed, and are generally accessible. But those presented to the nation at large, as supposed to be represented by the National Institute (an institution which is nothing but a name), are locked up in some repository at Washington. If we are unable or indisposed to reciprocate such liberality (the city of New York, by the way, which has received more than \$1,000 worth of books, has sent in exchange certain city documents, worth here probably \$25, and in France nothing!) it is certainly disgraceful to treat it with neglect.

#### VISIT TO MADAME DE STAEL.

AFTER a ride of some hours, we turned up a road just at the entrance of Copet, and in two minutes more we were at the seat of the great Necker. We alighted at the gate, and Mr. K— sent up a note to Madame de Stael expressing our desire to see her. In the meantime we walked over the grounds. The house is very well situated, high, with Copet and the lake before it, and, in the background, Mont Blanc. Behind, after a little court and arbor, came a fine circular lawn, surrounded with trees, and enlivened by a small stream, which turns a mill. After some time, we returned to the house, and, while looking at the pictures in the antechamber, I heard some one say in a lively tone, "Ah! comment vous portez vous, Monsieur K—." I turned round and saw a lady who took Mr. K— by the hand. He introduced me, and we entered the saloon. She was a little, plump woman,

rather short, dressed en dishabille in a gown, with a kind of jacket made of nankeen. Her face was rough and coarse, her hair black, eyes and eyebrows of the same color, her nose inclining to what we would call "a pug," a mouth not gracefully formed, but four teeth, and those projecting. She was therefore no beauty; but her face, full of expression, her eye, full of fire, and animated countenance, were infinitely more pleasing than mere regularity of feature. We sat down, and the conversation began by a question as to my intention of travelling further in Switzerland. Finding I was going to Paris, she asked me to trouble myself with a letter, to which I, of course, assented. We then discussed the news, English and French fleets, &c. She observed, she saw they took our vessels on all sides. (Accounts have lately appeared of American captures.)

We now began to talk English, which Mr. K— made her speak. She did so reluctantly, saying that the embarrassment of not speaking the language well, was one of her objections to visiting England. Mr. K— said it was like a horse in a mill—one had a certain routine, a certain circle, out of which we could not stir. She observed, that "we always said what we could and not what we would." Mr. K— asked if she had Gibbon's posthumous notes in the house. She answered, no. He asked whether she thought they contained more Anglicisms in his French, or Gallicisms in his English, it appearing to him that his French was better than his English. She said that she had not seen them lately, but her impression was, that the French wanted "couleur," and that, in his efforts to be correct, he had been correct only, without obtaining ease or grace.

Mr. K— mentioned a book of travels about fifty years ago, written in French, by an Englishman. She expressed great curiosity to see it, and he promised to send it to her. Mr. K— then remembered there was a question which he wished her to put to Monsieur Chateaubriand, who had just left Geneva. It was, what particular virtue Christianity had added to those already known. She said that she would answer: that it had added mildness—charity; that it had made woman's condition better. I observed, I thought it had offered more inducements to virtue, the rewards being greater than in the heathen system. She replied, that it had required more to be affected by those of Christianity, which were wholly spiritual, than of Paganism, which were material. We then talked of the condition of religion in America. She thought the American government perfect in its conduct towards religion, and approved of the rule, which I mentioned existed in some states, of requiring of their officers a belief in God, and a future state of rewards and punishments; these being great cardinal points, and the rest mere matters of opinion. With regard to the influence of Christianity, she said she had given her sentiments in one of her books, to which she referred us. She said they were there before Monsieur Chateaubriand had published his. He expressed them better than she had done, but he had borrowed the ideas from her's. I asked the name of her work. She began to tell me in English, but, not going on fluently, she laughed at the idea of not knowing the name of her own book, and gave me the French title, "Influence de la Littérature," &c. She has very correct ideas about America, and is a great admirer of our government, and more especially of Mr. Jefferson. We talked of

her young son, now in Paris, whom she wishes to send to Edinburgh. I asked her how she came to prefer an English education for him. She answered that she thought it best; that for women there were certain graces peculiar to France, but to make *men* (emphasising the word), she thought the English superior; and you, sir, she added, confirm me in my opinion. Mr. K— said that America was a young England. Madame de Stael laughed, and replied that England thought so, and called herself "Old England." She had just finished Roscoe's Life of Leo X., with which she was much pleased. He was quite *au fait* in Italian literature. We spoke of her going to Paris, from which she is exiled. She does not like Geneva. The house in which she lives (where her family have resided), "*elle aime douloureusement.*" After much further conversation we rose to take our leave. We had been speaking of Chateaubriand, then at Lyons. She said she was writing to him, and if I wished, would add a line of introduction.

She followed us to the ante-chamber, and after many polite expressions, ended with a compliment truly French. "Ah!" said she, "Mr. K—, if a young Frenchman had made the same observations to me that Mr. Biddle has, I should have embraced him and made him my best friend." On our return, I read Marmontel's account of Necker's family, in which he calls Mdlle. de Stael, "*Une aimable étourdie.*" Mr. K— had seen a good deal of Necker, who died last year. He had a high opinion of America, and was sorry we had bought Louisiana, though he considered anything better than French neighbors. He thought we were too large with it, and that the natural course of things would be as heretofore—we would quarrel, divide, and at length end in a despotism.

In speaking of Mdlle. de Stael, K— mentioned that she is not much liked in Geneva, being very unpopular among women, whom she takes no pains to please, regarding only men, to whom, in society, she addresses all her conversation.—*Leaves from the Note-Book of a Traveller in Europe in the year 1805.*

THE MODEL BABY.—It is the image of its father, unless it is the very picture of its mother. It is the best tempered little thing in the world, never crying but in the middle of the night, nor screaming but when it is being washed. It is astonishing how quiet it is whilst feeding. It understands everything, and proves its love for learning by tearing the leaves out of every book, and grasping with both hands at the engravings. It is the cleverest child that was ever born, and says "papa," or something very like it, when scarcely a month old. It takes early to pulling whiskers, preferring those of strangers. It has only one complaint, and that is the wind; but it is frequently troubled with it. It is the most wonderful child that was ever seen, and would swallow both its tiny fists, if it was not for a habit of choking. It dislikes leaving home, rarely stopping on a visit longer than a day. It has a strange hostility for its nurse's caps and nose, which it will clutch and hold with savage tenacity, if in the least offended. It is never happy but in its mother's arms, especially if it is being nursed by a gentleman. It prefers the floor to the cradle, which it never stops in longer than it can help. It is very playful, delighting in pulling the tablecloth off, or knocking the china ornaments off the mantelpiece, or upsetting its food in somebody's lap.

\* The list appended to the Report of the Committee of course only embraces that portion which was presented to the Public Departments, Congress, and the National Institute; the remainder has been distributed to the States of Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky, and Texas; to the cities of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore; to the universities of Cambridge, Brown's, Brunswick, and Waterville; to the colleges of Burlington, &c.

It invents a new language of its own, almost before it can speak, which is perfectly intelligible to its parents, though Greek to every one else. It is not fond of public entertainments, invariably crying before it has been at one five minutes. It dislikes treachery in any shape, and repels the spoonful of sugar if it fancies there is a powder at the bottom of it. Medicine is its greatest horror, next to cold water. It has no particular love for dress, generally tearing to pieces any handsome piece of finery, lace especially, as soon as it is put on. It inquires deeply into everything, and is very penetrating in the construction of a drum, the economy of a work-box, or the anatomy of a doll, which it likes all the better without any head or arms. It has an intuitive hatred of a doctor, and fights with all its legs, and hands, and first teeth, against his endearments. It has a most extraordinary taste for colors, imbibing them greedily in every shape, especially from the wooden tenants of Noah's Ark, which are to be found in the mouth of every baby. In fact, there never was a child like it, and the Model Baby proves this by surviving the thousand-and-one experiments of rival grannies and mothers-in-law, and outliving, to the athletic age of kilts and bare legs, the villanous compounds of Godfrey and Dalby, and the whole poison-chest of elixirs, carminatives, cordials, and pills, which babies are physically heir to. —Punch.

### Recent Publications.

*Mrs. Adams's Letters.* Home Library of Entertaining Books. Pp. 472, 12mo. Boston: Wilkins, Carter & Co.

THE present is the fourth edition, in extremely neat form, of this interesting collection of the letters of an American gentlewoman of the best school and of the most glorious epoch of our history. Not only for style and the general information they convey, but more particularly for the high-toned sentiment and admirable good sense they contain; they are at least as well worthy of being read and pondered, as the Memoirs of Mrs. Hutchinson, or Lady Fanshawe. To American readers, Mrs. Adams is of course much nearer than either of those celebrated women; and to the ladies of our country she presents a model, whether considered as wife, neighbor, friend, or lady of the President of the United States.

John Adams appears in these letters in a very amiable character: in history, he is the incorruptible patriot, the vigorous orator, learned lawyer, and wise statesman.

But Mrs. Adams is a perfect Cornelia, intelligent, prudent, dignified; free from affectation or pretence; a thrifty housewife, a tender and judicious mother, a charitable neighbor, capable of giving the best advice, and an active philanthropist.

The memoir of her grandson is well drawn up, not only marking with distinctness the different traits of her character, but also classifying the kinds of letters, and the epochs of her personal history, with critical accuracy and unbiassed good judgment.

The letters vary greatly in their topics, though all are written in a pleasing, natural manner, not to be taught by any art of rhetoric. The letters written at the breaking out of and during the Revolution, are such as would give a lustre to the reputation of even such a woman as Lady Russell. They are every way most worthy of this admirable woman.

The foreign correspondence, during Mr. Adams's embassy, is as pleasant and various as any equal amount of matter to be found in Lady Montagu's correspondence; equally agreeable and intelligent, though, to be sure, without her keen, sarcastic wit, and vivid descriptive coloring. Mrs. Adams had no pretension to literary accomplishments beyond that best of educations,

self-culture, and an intimate knowledge of English writers; yet no story-teller can narrate an anecdote more pointedly, or describe a place or scene with more vivacity and instinctive tact. She hits off a character in a sentence with happy justness and beauty. Her political affections are sound; her general views and tastes those of a woman fit to bear the title of wife of John Adams.

Some of the most beautiful letters in the collection are penned as letters of consolation to old friends on the loss of a brother, a husband, or associate. In a word, this is a book that should be owned by our fair countrywomen universally. It will teach something more than even most of the best historical productions—it will cherish the true spirit which should govern a genuine woman at all times, and in all seasons.

In an appendix are eleven letters addressed by John Quincy Adams to his son, G. W. Adams, a legacy which will be duly valued by those best fitted to appreciate it.

*Appleton's Railroad and Steamboat Companion.* By W. Williams. Pp. 312, 12mo. D. Appleton & Co., 200 Broadway.

IN these coming days of summer tourists and excursions in every direction, we know not a more appropriate pocket companion or vademecum for travellers, than this excellent manual, copiously and elegantly embellished and illustrated,—with maps of States and routes, by rail and canal and river navigation, plans of towns, and prints of numerous objects of interest.

The above is the most complete guide-book we have seen of those published here. It contains the essence of some half a dozen separate old ones, and much later information. It is very full, and as far as our own knowledge extends scrupulously accurate (an important point) in regard to statistics, distances, length of routes, the fare, &c.

From a single work like the present, tourists will gain a vast fund of practical information, otherwise to be obtained only at much cost of time and pains, from daily papers, gazetteers, and personal application.

Very many persons, from a miserly disposition, buy nothing they think not absolutely necessary in tours of pleasure, and for want of a good guide book take wrong routes, and spend more money than they need. In an economical point of view, a work of this description is well worth perusing, and it also serves as an excellent Directory, and a practical cicerone.

The author has not followed the usual course adopted in making Guide books; but placing himself in the position of a traveller in any large town, gives him a map of the country for a certain number of miles around; and thus as he passes on his journey, these maps, if laid upon one sheet of paper would touch each other and be a map of the whole space of country, of which singly they constitute only as many different points.

*The Boy's Spring Book.* By Thomas Miller. Harper & Brothers. 12mo. pp. 120, 1848.

THE "Spring Book" has lingered on our table till the advent of Summer, with its book, has threatened to render it out of date. It is, indeed, difficult to decide which of the books of the seasons, published in the "Boy's Own Library," beautifully printed and embellished with superior wood engravings, has most claims upon the reader, each imbues him so thoroughly with a lively sense of the physical and moral characteristics of the season which it portrays. They should be in every one's hand, in every one's pocket—we do not say they should be found on every parlor table, for we consider that hackneyed expression as almost synonymous with lying on the shelf, parlor table books being too often like the lustrous bottles in an apothecary's window—for show and not for use.

*Gems from Tupper.* Compiled by a Clergyman. Syracuse, Stoddard & Babcock. 18mo. pp. 204, 1848.

As occasion offered, we have at different times expressed our opinions upon Mr. Tupper's writ-

ings, and it is therefore needless to repeat what must be well known to our readers. The little volume under notice is made up of selections from the whole series; the greater part, however, being taken from the Proverbial Philosophy. In this respect the compiler has evinced good judgment; for, as we formerly remarked, on that work and *The Crock of Gold*, Mr. Tupper's reputation mainly rests. This little volume is very tastefully got up, is bound in unique and attractive style, and it will be found a not unwelcome companion during a country ramble. It may be procured at Newman & Co.'s, in this city.

*The Green Mountain Boys; an Historical Tale of the Early Settlement of Vermont.* Boston, B. B. Mussey & Co. 12mo. pp. 364, 1848.

THIS is a new and neat edition of a well-known work, which has been before the public some ten or a dozen years. It is a tale of border warfare, and the incidents are based on actual occurrences; which, if they impart to it little sectional character, at least give it the advantage of local interest. The author is more felicitous in the descriptive and narrative portions than in the delineation of individual character or in dialogue; nor do we think that he would have prejudiced the cause of his hero and his party, by allotting some of the minor virtues at least to their adversaries, for though the contrast would have been less striking, the harmony would have been more natural. To our taste, as we have hinted, the descriptions constitute the best features of the book, and exhibit the author's powers to the best advantage.

*Dr. Beck's Botany of the United States, &c.*

HARPER & BROTHERS have just issued in a neat duodecimo, a new and greatly improved edition of Dr. Beck's popular manual on botanical science, adapted for a text-book in schools, and also the use of private students. Its improved edition will doubtless cause an increased demand for this already popular treatise.

*William the Cottager.* By the Author of "Ellen Herbert."

THE Harpers have just issued an unpretending little volume, under the above title; it is an instructive tale for youth.

*Dr. Copland's Dictionary of Practical Medicine.* Part XIX.

WE need not repeat our strong commendation of this great production in medical literature and science: it is already sufficiently well known to the whole body of the faculty; and to some extent it is becoming also appreciated as a book of private reference by families.

*Religion Teaching by Example.* By Richard W. Dickinson, D.D. New York: Robert Carter.

THE sacred volume is almost wholly made up of narrative. From man's first disobedience to the grand catastrophe of his redemption, its pages are filled with the histories of communities and individuals—with myths, allegories, and parables, mysteries, visions, and apocalyptic revelations, exhibiting the life and conduct of responsible beings.

As the Saviour came to be an example to us, so it cannot be doubted that the stories of Holy writ and the lives and conduct of those who are the subject of inspired record, are placed before us as examples to warn or to win, and that they teach lessons which constitute them the true word of God. Like the parables, the mere narrative is of small importance, compared with the great rules of life, morals and religion, of which they were intended to be but the mere vehicle, and which elevate them to the dignity of Divine inculcations.

Teaching by example and enforcing by illustrations, which all can understand and whose fitness none can fail to acknowledge; they teach with more emphasis and make a more lasting and agreeable impression than abstract principles or mere didactic rules could do, and we



have often wondered that our preachers do not oftener expound the sacred narratives, exhibit recorded examples, and extract from them those great truths which give them their value.

This idea seems to have suggested the book before us, which is not, however, a volume of sermons. The Rev. Author whose health, as appears by the preface, does not permit the stated public exercise of pastoral duty, has devoted his leisure to bringing together a number of the most interesting sacred examples, with the important lessons which they teach, in a style and manner uniting the best qualities of the essay, the sermon, and the oration, without the peculiarities of either. Clear and unostentatious; often beautiful and eloquent; always interesting, earnest, and evangelical, without sectarian narrowness or bigoted denunciation, he has given the readers of religious literature a most valuable addition to their libraries.

### Publishers' Circular.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Messrs. LEA & BLANCHARD, Philadelphia, intend publishing the following:—Analogies and Contrasts; Memoirs of Mad. de Montpensier; Erman's Travels in Siberia; Mirabeau, a Life History; Colmache's Reminiscences of Talleyrand; Barlow on Medicine; Brande's Chemistry; Steinmetz's History of the Jesuits; Taylor on Evidence; Guesses at Truth, by Two Brothers.

They have nearly ready, the following books, which we announced as in press some weeks since:—

Memoirs of the Court of George II., by Lord Hervey, in two neat duodecimo volumes.  
Physical Geography, by Mary Somerville, in 1 vol. 12mo.

Christison's Dispensatory, edited by Griffith, with large additions from Redwood & Gray's Supplement to the Pharmacopœias.

Messrs. BARRINGTON & HASWELL, Philadelphia, have just published the fourth edition, revised and enlarged, of Bell & Stokes's Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Physic, 2 vols. 8vo. In allusion to the improvements in the present edition, we extract the following from the preface:—

"The present edition of these lectures has been revised with considerable care, and many of the subjects—such as Epidemic Cholera, Diseases of the Urinary Organs, Diseases of the Female Organs of Generation, Pulmonary Consumption, Diseases of the Heart, Meningitis (Simple and Tubercular), the Exanthemata, and Fevers—recast. Others are introduced for the first time, viz., Diseases of the Eye, Diseases of the Bloodvessels, and Dropsy. A large infusion of pathological anatomy and organic chemistry, together with histology and microscopy, has been made, in the hope of enhancing the value of Diagnosis and Prognosis; although it must be confessed that, as yet, these important matters are not so closely blended with therapeutics as to form a homogeneous system. A notice of them is due to medical science; but care has been taken that it should not, in these lectures, encroach on the large space requisite for clinical or practical medicine—observations and descriptions made at the bedside of the sick in different periods and climates, and under various other modifying circumstances."

The same publishers have also in press and will publish in July, "A new edition of Graves's and Gerhard's Lectures on Clinical Medicine," and "Gooch on Women and Children."

Messrs. GOULD, KENDALL & LINCOLN, Boston, have in press—The Person and Glory of Christ: the Doctrine of the Person and Glory of Christ, by Dr. Sartorius, translated from the fifth German edition, by Rev. O. S. Stearns; Wayland's Discourses: Recent Discourses delivered in the Chapel of Brown University, on many of the leading moral and religious topics of the day, by Francis Wayland, D.D.; Proverbs for the People: a Series of Discussions on the

Book of Proverbs, in which are graphically delineated the great doctrines and duties which relate to man's temporal and eternal weal, by Rev. E. L. Magoun, of Cincinnati.

BENJAMIN PIKE, Optician, is about to publish an Illustrated Descriptive Catalogue of Optical, Mathematical, and Philosophical Instruments, belonging to the various departments of Electricity, Galvanism, Magnetism, Electro-Magnetism, Pneumatics, Hydrostatics, Mechanics, Optics, Astronomy, Surveying, Navigation, Meteorology, Chemistry, &c., &c. With the prices affixed; with upwards of 750 Engravings. Designed to aid Professors of Colleges, Teachers, and others, in the selection and use of Illustrative Apparatus, in every department of Science. The catalogue will consist of two volumes.

The Twentieth Boston Trade Sale will commence on Tuesday, August 22, 1848, and be conducted by Phillips & Sampson, 110 Washington street.

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ADVERTISERS BY THE YEAR, occupying more space than agreed for, will be charged at the same rate for the extra matter; and no allowance will be made when advertisements are not sent to occupy or fill the space engaged.

To CHANGE AN ADVERTISEMENT, specific directions must be written upon the one to be substituted, in order to avoid mistakes.

To WITHDRAW AN ADVERTISEMENT notice must be given to the Publishers the week beforehand.  
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Booksellers and Publishers will do well to keep an eye upon the department of our paper devoted to "announcements," to get the speediest intelligence of books which are about to come into the market; and when wishing to notify the public of their own contemplated literary undertakings, they should, in sending us the title, &c., of the work in hand, mark it "announcement," in order that the information thus given may not be mistaken in this office for an advertisement.

Having been compelled, in many instances, to glean the titles from Advertisements in the daily papers, the list has not been as full and perfect in every particular as it is our desire to make it. Henceforth, if publishers, immediately upon the issue of any work, will forward to us a copy of the title-page and the price, marked "Literary World's weekly list," all deficiencies of this kind will be remedied.  
April 22. OSGOOD & CO.

#### BOOKS PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES FROM 10TH TO 17TH JUNE.

A BOOK OF HYMNS FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE Devotion. Edited by Rev. Samuel Longfellow. 2d edition, with Additions (Boston, W. D. Ticknor & Co.).  
ANCIENT HARMONY REVIVED; being a Selection of Choice Music for Divine Worship, from old and approved Authors, as Billings, Bechu, &c. 2d edition, revised and enlarged (Boston, B. Perkins & Co.).  
ANGELO; a Novel. By Mrs. Marsh, author of "Emilia Wyndham."  
BURNAP (REV. GEO. W.)—Lectures on the Doctrines of Christianity, in Controversy between Unitarians and other Denominations of Christians. By George W. Burnap. 2d edition, with additions, 1 vol. 12mo. (James Munroe & Co.) 83 cts.  
CHALMERS'S DAILY READING OF THE SCRIPTURES: being volume three of his Posthumous Works. 1 vol. 12mo, muslin (Harper & Brothers), \$1.

DANISH STORY-BOOK. By Hans Christian Andersen. With engravings, 1 vol. 18mo. (C. S. Francis & Co.) 37 cents.

EASTERN TOURIST; being a Guide through the States of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and Canada. (Boston, James Munroe & Co.)

FROST'S (J.) LIFE OF GEN. ZACHARY TAYLOR; with Notices of the War in Mexico, California, and Southern Mexico. By John Frost, LL.D. 1 vol. 12mo. illustrated, cloth (D. Appleton & Co.), \$1 25.

LETTERS FROM ITALY AND ALPS, AND THE RHINE. By J. T. Headley. A new and revised edition, 1 vol. 12mo. with a portrait of the author (Baker & Scribner).

PANORAMIC VIEW FROM BUNKER HILL MONUMENT; with an Explanatory Key. (Boston, Redding & Co.) 75 cts.

PLANETARY (THE) AND STELLAR WORLDS: a Popular Exposition of the great Discoveries and Theories of Modern Astronomy. By Prof. O. M. Mitchell. 1 vol. 12mo. with 16 illustrations (Baker & Scribner).

PRINCIPLES OF ZOOLOGY TOUCHING THE Structure, Development, &c., of the Races of Animals, Living and Extinct. By Louis Agassiz and A. A. Gould. 1 vol. 12mo. pp. 216 (Boston, Gould, Kendall & Lincoln), \$1.

SELF-CONTROL. By Mary Brunton. Paper (Harper & Brothers), 25 cts.

The same, 12mo. cloth (Wilkins, Carter & Co.).

STRICKLAND'S (MISS A.) LIVES OF THE QUEENS of England, from the Norman Conquest: with Anecdotes of their Courts, &c. Vol. XII. and last. 1 vol. 8vo. pp. 358, red cloth (Lea & Blanchard), \$1 50.

TAYLOR (R. C.)—Statistics of Coal: the Geological and Geographical distribution of Mineral Combustibles or Fossil Fuel, with Notices and Localities; Illust. by Maps and Diagrams, together with their Prices, Tariff, Duties, and International Regulations, &c., &c. By Richard Cowling Taylor. 1 vol. 8vo. pp. 754 (Phila., John W. Moore), \$5.

THE KINGS AND CABINETS OF EUROPE; and their Victims. By a Swede. (W. H. Graham) 124 cts.

WEBSTER'S (D.) DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL Papers while Secretary of State; accompanied with a Portrait. 2 vol. 8vo. muslin (Harper & Brothers).

WHEELER'S HISTORY OF CONGRESS; comprising Memoirs of some prominent Men: with Portraits and Fac-simile Autographs. 8vo. muslin (Harper & Bros.)

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